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12  
13 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
**NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**  
14 **SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION**

15 JOHN DOE 15, JOHN DOE 16, JOHN DOE  
17, JOHN DOE 18, and JOHN DOE 19,

16 Plaintiffs,

17 v.

18 THE UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO,  
19 ANTHONY N. (AKA NINO) GIARRATANO,  
and TROY NAKAMURA,

20  
21 Defendants.

**COMPLAINT**

**JURY TRIAL DEMANDED**

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1 Plaintiffs John Doe 15, John Doe 16, John Doe 17, John Doe 18, and John Doe 19, by and  
2 through their attorneys, bring this action, individually, against the University of San Francisco  
3 (“USF”), Nino Giarratano (“Giarratano”) and Troy Nakamura (“Nakamura”) (Coaches Giarratano  
4 and Nakamura collectively referred to as the “Coach Defendants” and all defendants collectively  
5 referred to as “Defendants”).<sup>1</sup>

6 **I. INTRODUCTION**

7 1. For over two decades, USF’s head baseball coach, Giarratano, and assistant  
8 baseball coach, Nakamura, created and coercively maintained an abusive and sexualized  
9 environment on USF’s Division I baseball program. Despite being aware of the risks of abuse  
10 faced by student-athletes, like Plaintiffs, and the need to implement policies to protect them, USF  
11 failed to adopt and enforce policies prohibiting such abuse, even after the Coach Defendants’  
12 misconduct prompted complaints to the University. In addition, the USF Athletic Department was  
13 significantly understaffed and without oversight from administrators which contributed to the  
14 failure to detect, address, and prevent the Coach Defendants’ misconduct.

15 2. USF had—and has—an ongoing duty to protect the health and safety of student-  
16 athletes in its care, like Plaintiffs. This duty includes prohibiting discrimination and sexual and  
17 psychological abuse of student-athletes by adopting, implementing, and enforcing appropriate  
18 policies and procedures to prevent, or properly respond to, discrimination and sexual misconduct  
19 and abuse of student-athletes by USF personnel. However, as alleged herein, USF did not have  
20 any sexual misconduct prevention policies to address the power dynamics between coaches and  
21 student-athletes while Giarratano and Nakamura were coaches at USF and while Plaintiffs  
22 attended USF. Nor did USF adequately enforce the limited, inadequate policies it did have in  
23 place.

24 3. The lack of such policies affected Plaintiffs during an incredibly vulnerable period

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26 <sup>1</sup> A motion or stipulation to proceed anonymously is forthcoming. In the related case, *John Does*  
27 *1-14 v. University of San Francisco, et al.*, Case No. 3:22-cv-1559-LB (N.D. Cal), the Court  
28 granted the Plaintiffs’ motion to proceed anonymously, finding that publicly revealing Doe 1-14’s  
“identities could cause mental or emotional harm and possible retaliation in the community.” ECF  
No. 63, Order Granting Admin. Mot. to Proceed Anonymously at 1, *John Does 1-14 v. University*  
*of San Francisco, et al.*, Case No. 3:22-cv-1559-LB (N.D. Cal).

1 in their lives. Often living away from home for the first time, Plaintiffs arrived at USF expecting  
2 to develop as athletes under the supervision of USF's athletic department personnel and, in  
3 particular, Giarratano and Nakamura. Plaintiffs understood these individuals to be educated,  
4 skilled, fully vetted, and committed to Plaintiffs' best interests, and therefore accorded them  
5 deference, respect, loyalty, and trust.

6 4. In dereliction of its duty to protect student-athletes, including Plaintiffs, USF  
7 employed Giarratano and Nakamura for over 22 years despite knowing that the Coach Defendants  
8 created an intolerable sexualized and psychologically abusive environment on USF's baseball  
9 team. In fact, USF President Fr. Fitzgerald recognized deep-seated cultural problems with the  
10 baseball program. Specifically, the Coach Defendants engaged in a concerted pattern of  
11 sexualized and psychological misconduct towards Plaintiffs, among others, that included  
12 Nakamura repeatedly exposing his genitalia to players on and off the baseball field, engaging in  
13 sexualized skits (involving miming sexual acts with players and/or forcing players to mime sexual  
14 acts with one another), showering with players, and describing his sexual desires to them. Rather  
15 than stop him, Giarratano encouraged and participated in Nakamura's behavior.

16 5. When Plaintiffs refused to participate or expressed any disagreement with this  
17 sexualized culture, the Coach Defendants would retaliate against them. This retaliation included  
18 psychologically abusing Plaintiffs (including with sexualized taunts), taking away playing time,  
19 coercing Plaintiffs—who otherwise met all National Collegiate Athletic Association ("NCAA")  
20 and academic requirements—into leaving USF (and giving up their guaranteed scholarships)  
21 through threats and misrepresentations, and then blackballing Plaintiffs to make it difficult for  
22 them to transfer and play at other schools. The conduct was so abhorrent that some Plaintiffs  
23 experienced suicidal thoughts, and all have been left with severe trauma.

24 6. The sexualized and abusive environment and calculated retaliation by the Coach  
25 Defendants effectively drove Plaintiffs to leave (or want to leave) the team. Such attrition had  
26 become characteristic of Giarratano's tenure as USF's head baseball coach. Following the 1999-  
27 2000 academic year, when Giarratano became head coach at USF, only one of 15 players returned  
28

1 for their sophomore year. Of the 12 or 13 players who entered USF's baseball program in 2013,  
2 only five played baseball at USF for all four years of college, and one of those players was  
3 Giarratano's son. Every other player transferred. Of the 16 freshman recruits in the 2020 USF  
4 baseball class, 11 (or nearly 70%) left. Three of those 11 were Plaintiffs. These transfer rates—  
5 which stand in stark contrast to the reported 2.3% of four-year college transfers among Division I  
6 baseball players—are a testament to the Coach Defendants' sexual misconduct, ruthlessness,  
7 retaliation, and callous treatment of players, including Plaintiffs.

8         7. The Coach Defendants' conduct was so outside the realm of what was "normal" in  
9 elite, competitive baseball that they took steps to cover it up, including by manipulating Plaintiffs  
10 into believing that the conduct was normal and that if the Plaintiffs could not handle the conduct,  
11 it was the fault of Plaintiffs. Likewise, when USF was confronted with allegations that sexual  
12 misconduct was rampant in its athletic programs—beyond allegations about the Coach  
13 Defendants' wrongdoing—through complaints made to the very highest levels of the Athletic  
14 Department, USF buried those complaints. Instead of stepping in to protect Plaintiffs (and other  
15 student-athletes), USF chose to protect its own reputation, back the Coach Defendants, and co-  
16 sign their efforts to mask their sexual misconduct by retaliating against any non-compliant  
17 student-athletes, including by running them off the baseball team.

18         8. It was only after two decades of this abuse that USF was finally forced to act after  
19 the filing of numerous reports and Title IX complaints about the Coach Defendants' misconduct  
20 in 2021. The subsequent Title IX investigation confirmed the complaints, and, on January 13,  
21 2022, USF announced that Nakamura was no longer a coach for USF's baseball team following  
22 "a human resources investigation into incidents in which 'the coaches' language, behavior and/or  
23 actions were inappropriate.'"<sup>2</sup> On January 24, 2022, Giarratano was officially reprimanded, but  
24 allowed to keep his job in continuance of USF's pattern of turning a blind eye.<sup>3</sup>

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26 <sup>2</sup> Ron Kroichick, *Intolerable Sexualized Environment': Ex-USF Baseball Players Sue Coaches,*  
27 *School, NCAA*, SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE (Mar. 11, 2022, updated Mar. 13, 2022),  
28 <https://www.sfchronicle.com/sports/college/article/Intolerable-sexualized-environment-Ex-USF-16994972.php>.

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

1           9.       As a result of this misconduct by Defendants, a class action lawsuit was filed in  
2 the Northern District of California by former Division I baseball players, spanning over 22 years.  
3 ECF No. 133, Third Amended Complaint, *John Does 1-14 v. University of San Francisco, et al.*,  
4 Case No. 3:22-cv-1559-LB (N.D. Cal). The Doe Plaintiffs in that case, thirteen former baseball  
5 players at USF, brought claims on behalf of all USF baseball players from 1999-2022 for, *inter*  
6 *alia*, Title IX discrimination, Title IX retaliation, violations of the California Education Code,  
7 negligence, and negligent supervision and retention of Giarratano and Nakamura. Only after the  
8 filing of the original complaint by John Does 1-13, on March 11, 2022, did USF further address  
9 the situation by firing Giarratano, two days later, “effective immediately.”<sup>4</sup> Then, on June 10,  
10 2022, USF’s Athletic Director (“AD”), Joan McDermott, announced her retirement “in the wake  
11 of lawsuits alleging coaching misconduct in the baseball and women’s basketball programs.”<sup>5</sup>

12           10.       On May 5, 2025, Magistrate Judge Laurel Beeler denied John Does 1-14’s motion  
13 to certify an issue class. ECF No. 312, Order Denying Mot. To Certify Issue Class, *John Does 1-*  
14 *14 v. University of San Francisco, et al.*, Case No. 3:22-cv-1559-LB (N.D. Cal). But John Does 1-  
15 14 are not alone. John Does 15-19 experienced the same intolerable sexualized environment,  
16 psychological abuse, and retaliation inflicted by the Coach Defendants against John Does 1-14.  
17 No longer putative class members, John Does 15-19 now bring this lawsuit, individually, for  
18 violations of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (“Title IX”), as amended, 20 U.S.C.  
19 § 1681 *et seq.*, as well as various state statutory and common laws.

20           11.       Through this lawsuit, John Does 15-19 seek compensation from USF and the  
21 Coach Defendants for Plaintiffs’ injuries from the intolerable sexualized environment,  
22 psychological abuse, and retaliation to which the Coach Defendants subjected Plaintiffs.

23           12.       Specifically, Plaintiffs seek money damages from USF and the Coach Defendants

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25 <sup>4</sup> Jessica Flores, *USF Baseball Coach Fired After Ex-players’ Lawsuit Alleges ‘Intolerable*  
26 *Sexualized Environment,*’ SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE (Mar. 13, 2022),  
[https://www.sfchronicle.com/sports/college/article/USF-baseball-coach-fired-after-ex-players-](https://www.sfchronicle.com/sports/college/article/USF-baseball-coach-fired-after-ex-players-16998516.php)  
27 [16998516.php](https://www.sfchronicle.com/sports/college/article/USF-baseball-coach-fired-after-ex-players-16998516.php).

28 <sup>5</sup> Ron Kroichick, *USF’s Joan McDermott Announces Her Retirement, Ending Turbulent Run as*  
*Athletic Director,* SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE (June 10, 2022, updated June 11, 2022),  
[https://www.sfchronicle.com/sports/college/article/USF-s-Joan-McDermott-to-announce-her-](https://www.sfchronicle.com/sports/college/article/USF-s-Joan-McDermott-to-announce-her-17233293.php)  
[17233293.php](https://www.sfchronicle.com/sports/college/article/USF-s-Joan-McDermott-to-announce-her-17233293.php).

1 for the psychological abuse and repeated inappropriate sexual conduct they suffered, and  
2 compensation for lost guaranteed scholarship money, other out-of-pocket costs, and impairment  
3 of their baseball careers, including playing Major League Baseball. Among other damages, as a  
4 result of the Coach Defendants' misconduct, Plaintiffs suffered and continue to suffer severe  
5 emotional and physical pain, including shock, emotional distress, physical manifestations of  
6 emotional distress including embarrassment, loss of self-esteem, disgrace, humiliation, and loss of  
7 enjoyment of life and baseball; were prevented and will continue to be prevented from  
8 performing daily activities and obtaining the full enjoyment of life; will sustain loss of earnings  
9 and earning capacity; and/or have incurred and will continue to incur expenses for medical and  
10 psychological treatment, therapy, and counseling.

## 11 **II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

12 13. This Court has jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 because this action arises  
13 under the laws of the United States.

14 14. This Court has supplemental jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1367 over Plaintiffs'  
15 state law claims, because they arise from a common nucleus of operative facts with their federal  
16 claims and are so related to the federal claims as to form part of the same case or controversy  
17 under Article III of the United States Constitution.

18 15. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant USF because it is located in  
19 this District and the wrongdoing occurred in this District.

20 16. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant Anthony "Nino" Giarratano  
21 because Giarratano coached in this District for over 22 years. Giarratano committed the  
22 wrongdoing alleged herein largely, if not entirely, within this District.

23 17. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant Troy Nakamura because  
24 Nakamura coached in this District for over 22 years. Nakamura committed the wrongdoing  
25 alleged herein largely, if not entirely, within this District.

26 18. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391(b)(1) and (b)(2)  
27 because Defendant USF is a resident of the State in which the District is located; and a substantial  
28

1 part of the events and omissions giving rise to the claims occurred in this District.

2 **III. INTRA-DISTRICT ASSIGNMENT**

3 19. Assignment in the San Francisco Division is appropriate because USF resides in  
4 this Division.

5 **IV. PARTIES**

6 **A. Plaintiffs**

7 20. **John Doe 15** is a citizen and resident of Utah and a citizen of the United States.  
8 John Doe 15 was a freshman at USF in the fall of 2020 and attended USF through the 2020-2021  
9 academic year. He transferred from USF because of the actions of the Defendants.

10 21. **John Doe 16** is a citizen and resident of California and a citizen of the United  
11 States. John Doe 16 was a freshman at USF in the fall of 2020. John Doe 2 transferred out of USF  
12 in December 2020 due to the actions of the Defendants.

13 22. **John Doe 17** is a citizen and resident of California and a citizen of the United  
14 States. John Doe 17 was a freshman at USF for the fall of 2020 and left USF a few weeks into the  
15 fall 2020 semester because of Defendants' actions.

16 23. **John Doe 18** is a citizen and resident of Arizona and a citizen of the United States.  
17 John Doe 18 attended USF from 2020 to 2023.

18 24. **John Doe 19** is a citizen and resident of California and a citizen of the United  
19 States. John Doe 19 attended USF from 2021 to 2022. At the end of the 2022 spring season, John  
20 Doe 19 transferred from USF due to the actions of Defendants.

21 **B. Defendants**

22 25. **Defendant University of San Francisco (USF)** is a California corporation located  
23 at 2130 Fulton Street, San Francisco, California 94117. USF's agent for service of process,  
24 Donna J. Davis, is located at the same address. USF is a Division I member institution of the  
25 NCAA and the only Division I university in San Francisco.

26 26. **Defendant Nino Giarratano** is a resident of Arizona. Giarratano was the head  
27 coach of the USF baseball team from 1999 until March 13, 2022, when USF announced  
28



1 Giarratano had been fired.

2 27. **Defendant Troy Nakamura** is a resident of North Carolina. Nakamura was an  
3 assistant to Giarratano for 15 years at USF until he was promoted to Associate Head Coach in the  
4 summer of 2013. USF announced on January 13, 2022, that Nakamura had been fired.

5 **V. FACTS**

6 **A. Student-Athletes, Including Plaintiffs, Face a Heightened Risk of Sexualized**  
7 **Conduct and Abuse by Coaches.**

8 28. College coaches control almost every aspect of student-athletes' lives. Absent  
9 adequate policies, college administrators are incentivized to look the other way. Under these  
10 circumstances, student-athletes are at a heightened risk of sexual abuse by coaches. It is also  
11 harder for student-athletes to recognize abuse in the context of college athletics due to the insular  
12 nature of such teams, the extreme trust and authority placed in coaches, and the role of coaches in  
13 setting team cultural norms.

14 29. College athletics are notoriously hierarchical, with power flowing downward from  
15 the coach: "[C]oaches have power over athletes' lives far exceeding the mechanics of practicing  
16 and competing in a sport. A coach's power over athletes can extend to virtually all aspects of the  
17 athlete's life in such ways that clear boundaries are hard to delineate. This near-total control is  
18 rarely questioned."<sup>6</sup> For example, coaches directly control student-athletes' recruitment, training,  
19 well-being, financial aid, scholarships, playing time, and prospects of playing professionally.  
20 Thus, coaches hold student-athletes' future careers, and even their ability to continue attending  
21 college, in their hands. "The athlete's dependence on the coach makes it enormously difficult for  
22 the athlete to control the boundaries of the relationship or speak up to a coach who oversteps."<sup>7</sup>

23 30. As recognized by the NCAA as early as 2012, for student-athletes, "the magnitude  
24 of the coach's control will likely exceed ... the extent of control any individual has ever had over  
25  
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27 <sup>6</sup> Deborah L. Brake, *Going Outside Title IX to Keep Coach-Athlete Relationships in Bounds*, 22  
28 MARQUETTE SPORTS L. REV. 395, 405 (Jan. 1, 2012) (footnotes omitted).

<sup>7</sup> *Id.* at 406.

1 them at any point in their lives, with the exception of their parents.”<sup>8</sup> Coaches exert even more  
2 control and cement their influence over student-athletes by condoning or even participating in  
3 hazing. ECF No. 266-002 ¶¶ 43-45, Expert Report of Robert Boland, J.D., *John Does 1-14 v.*  
4 *University of San Francisco, et al.*, Case No. 3:22-cv-1559-LB (N.D. Cal) (hereinafter “Boland  
5 Report”). Hazing reinforces a culture of fear and compliance, ensuring that student-athletes feel  
6 even more powerless to resist or report a coaches’ abusive conduct. *Id.*

7 31. Coaches exert this control with minimal to no oversight, and many coaches  
8 command substantial prestige on campus. *Id.* ¶ 33. Given the pressure to succeed (and the  
9 resulting financial and intangible benefits), colleges compete fiercely for the best coaches, and  
10 coaches are among the highest paid individuals on campus. *Id.* This can cloud college  
11 administrators’ judgment and lead them to excuse or willfully ignore misconduct. *Id.* ¶ 34.

12 32. Given this power imbalance, interactions between coaches and student-athletes are  
13 inherently unequal and student-athletes are particularly at risk of sexual abuse and harassment by  
14 their coaches. As researchers suggest, “the culture of sport, specifically the power invested in the  
15 coach, facilitates an environment conducive to, and tolerant of, sexual exploitation.”<sup>9</sup> Moreover,  
16 as athletes advance to the upper echelons of their sport, the power balance grows:

17 *[A]thletes may be more susceptible to the grooming process . . . when they have*  
18 *reached a high standard of performance but are just below the elite level. We call*  
19 *this the ‘stage of imminent achievement’ (SIA). . . . [T]he young athlete often needs*  
20 *the attention of the coach in order to maintain form and the chance to succeed. In*  
*these circumstances it is not difficult for a coach with sexual motives to groom and*  
*gain compliance from the athlete.*<sup>10</sup>

21 33. This dependence and power differential created by the coach-athlete relationship  
22 ensures that student-athletes are not capable of consenting to sexual communications or  
23 interactions with coaches. Boland Report ¶¶ 40, 43, 49 (citing literature). “In other words, the

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24 <sup>8</sup> Deborah L. Brake & Mariah Burton Nelson, *Staying in Bounds* 15 (citations omitted),  
[http://ncaa.org.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/2021/1/18/Staying\\_2Bin\\_2BBounds\\_2BFinal.pdf](http://ncaa.org.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/2021/1/18/Staying_2Bin_2BBounds_2BFinal.pdf)  
25 (last visited June 25, 2025).

26 <sup>9</sup> Joy D. Bringer, Celia H. Brackenridge, & Lynn H. Johnston, *Defining Appropriateness in*  
*Coach-Athlete Sexual Relationships: The Voice of Coaches*, 8 J. SEXUAL AGGRESSION, at 3  
27 (2002), (unpublished manuscript),  
<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/13552600208413341>.

28 <sup>10</sup> Celia Brackenridge & Sandra Kirby, *Playing Safe: Assessing the Risk of Sexual Abuse to Elite*  
*Child Athletes*, INT’L REVIEW FOR THE SOCIOLOGY OF SPORT: SPECIAL ISSUE ON YOUTH SPORT 13  
(1997), <https://bit.ly/3MBMlvJ>.

1 dynamics of the coach-athlete relationship in intercollegiate sport make any sexual contact  
2 between a coach and an athlete abusive, regardless of whether it was wanted by the athlete and  
3 regardless of whether the athlete is over the age of consent.” *Id.* ¶ 49 (quoting research). This  
4 power imbalance is what enables predators who work with student-athletes (like Jerry Sandusky,  
5 Larry Nassar, Robert Anderson, and Nakamura) to thrive.

6 **B. USF Lacks Adequate Policies to Prevent and Redress Sexualized Conduct by**  
7 **Coaches or to Educate Student-Athletes, Including Plaintiffs, on Responding**  
8 **to Such Abuse.**

9 34. USF did not have *any* sexual misconduct prevention policy that addressed the  
10 power dynamics between coaches and student-athletes while Giarratano and Nakamura were  
11 coaches at USF and while Plaintiffs attended USF.

12 35. USF has the responsibility to—and does—exercise institutional control over its  
13 coaches. USF dictates almost every aspect of a coach’s job, including qualifications to work,  
14 trainings to compete, when to work, when to interact with athletes, how to disseminate  
15 information from the NCAA to their staff, and when and how to recruit new athletes. USF also  
16 enforces detailed NCAA rules that further define what coaches can and cannot do.

17 36. Yet, USF has no policies (1) prohibiting sexual communication or sexual conduct  
18 between coaches and student-athletes; (2) mandating training related to the power dynamic  
19 between coaches and student-athletes and to the inability of student-athletes to consent to any  
20 form of sexual communication or sexual conduct with their coaches; or (3) requiring appropriate  
21 team environments free from any form of sexual communication or sexual conduct between  
22 coaches and student-athletes. The limited training provided focuses on student-on-student  
23 complaints, not misconduct by coaches.

24 37. USF likewise exercises substantial control over student-athletes, including  
25 Plaintiffs, as reflected in a number of handbooks and policies. Yet none address the power  
26 dynamic between coaches and student-athletes, the effect of the power-dynamic on consent with  
27 respect to sexual communications or sexual conduct by coaches directed at student-athletes, or  
28 how to handle sexual communications or sexual conduct by coaches directed at student-athletes.

1 Rather, existing policies address only student-on-student harassment, including imposing  
2 sanctions when a student is found to have violated this policy. There is no mention of coaches  
3 facing sanctions for their sexual misconduct.

4 38. Despite the need for a policy prohibiting relationships and other sexual conduct  
5 between faculty and students—and despite the existence of such a policy at many similar  
6 institutions—USF has no policy addressing such relationships or conduct.

7 39. USF also does not—and did not while Plaintiffs attended USF—provide training  
8 to student-athletes to address sexual interactions or sexual communications between coaches and  
9 student-athletes, or on how the power dynamic between them implicates consent. While USF  
10 provides training on topics like dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, no training addresses  
11 sexual misconduct in the context of athletic power dynamics. These narrowly focused trainings  
12 reflect USF’s emphasis on complying only with USF’s reporting requirements under the Clery  
13 Act and suggests that USF’s focus is not on protecting its students, but rather on limiting the  
14 number of reportable incidents and keeping its official numbers low.

15 C. **Left Unchecked by USF, the Coach Defendants Created an Intolerable**  
16 **Sexualized Environment on and off the USF Baseball Field for Plaintiffs.**

17 40. In the absence of appropriate policies, the heightened risk of abuse materialized for  
18 Plaintiffs while playing under the Coach Defendants.

19 41. Plaintiffs arrived at USF ready to work and succeed. All had successful careers in  
20 high school and on baseball travel teams, and USF publicly touted them when they committed.  
21 The Coach Defendants assured Plaintiffs that they would be major additions to the USF baseball  
22 team, were integral to the team’s future success, and had the skills to make it to the next level. All  
23 Plaintiffs had aspiration of playing Major League Baseball.

24 42. However, once they arrived at USF, Plaintiffs were subjected to a toxic  
25 environment created and perpetuated by the Coach Defendants that was characterized by  
26 inappropriate sexual conduct and psychological and physical abuse.

27 43. Inappropriate sexual conduct was rampant at baseball practice. For example, at the  
28 beginning of base running, players were split into small groups, assigned a base, and asked to

1 perform a skit as an “icebreaker.” Giarratano would stand on the pitching mound, judge each  
2 base’s skit, and declare a winner. Nakamura would typically join the players on 3<sup>rd</sup> base and  
3 engage in sexualized skits. On one occasion, several Plaintiffs witnessed Nakamura go into the  
4 dugout and come out completely naked as part of his skit. On another occasion, Nakamura  
5 motorboated a players’ genitalia as part of the skit.

6 44. Immediately following base running, the hitters would be divided into two  
7 groups—one would go to the batting cages with volunteer assistant coach, Allen Smoot, and the  
8 other would stay and hit with Giarratano and Nakamura. The players who stayed with Giarratano  
9 and Nakamura would be required to engage in “café” exercises. The café exercises involved  
10 Nakamura or Giarratano identifying a theme for a hypothetical dinner, such as barbecue or fast  
11 food, and then each person (including both coaches and players) would identify what they would  
12 bring to dinner (such as a type of food or drink). Plaintiffs regularly witnessed Giarratano and  
13 Nakamura choose inappropriate answers. Not only did Giarratano witness these café exercises,  
14 but he engaged in the same behavior as Nakamura and encouraged inappropriate responses.

15 45. All Plaintiffs were affected. For example, John Doe 18 went out of his way to hit  
16 with Allen Smoot instead of joining Giarratano. Giarratano called John Doe 18 out for avoiding  
17 him and asked why John Doe 18 was scared of him and hiding in the batting cages. Giarratano  
18 then strongly advised John Doe 18 to regularly hit with Giarratano and engage in the café  
19 exercises. Because this behavior was so normalized within the baseball team’s culture, Plaintiffs  
20 felt obliged to participate for fear of being singled out or retaliated against.

21 46. Giarratano and Nakamura’s inappropriate behavior was not limited to the skits and  
22 café exercises. Nakamura would regularly make inappropriate and sexualized comments about  
23 women on campus, players’ girlfriends, and even players’ sisters. Giarratano not only heard  
24 Nakamura’s inappropriate comments, but he often participated in these conversations. Plaintiffs  
25 regularly spoke among themselves and to other players on the team at the time about how  
26 uncomfortable the Coach Defendants’ conduct made them, even though it was normalized on the  
27 baseball team.  
28

1           47. Both Coach Defendants also showered with the players in the locker room. This  
2 made Plaintiffs uncomfortable and many avoided showering after practices and games to avoid  
3 being naked around the Coach Defendants. During away games, those Plaintiffs who travelled  
4 were assigned hotel rooms to shower with approximately five other players, and often coaches.  
5 On one occasion, Nakamura showered with the door open and then entered the hotel room  
6 without a towel covering his genitals. Nakamura remained standing (with his towel around his  
7 neck) and spoke with players in the room, including John Doe 18, about Nakamura's sexual  
8 fantasies.

9           48. Nakamura also engaged in calculated displays of nudity outside of the sexualized  
10 skits. On one occasion, several Plaintiffs witnessed Nakamura come out of the dugout naked and  
11 swing his genitalia around like a helicopter. Rather than condemn Nakamura's actions, Giarratano  
12 often made a joke of them. For example, after one of the sexualized skits involving nudity,  
13 Plaintiffs recall that Giarratano kissed the cross on his necklace and jokingly mimed looking up at  
14 the sky to ask God for forgiveness.

15           49. Against this sexualized backdrop, Plaintiffs were also regularly verbally abused by  
16 the Coach Defendants who would say things such as, "I wouldn't bet on you," "you  
17 motherfucker!," "you fucking cunts," "you will never play baseball at USF," "pathetic,"  
18 "worthless piece of shit," "kill yourself," and "we don't want you here." These taunts were often  
19 sexualized, with the Coach Defendants calling Plaintiffs a "pussy," telling John Doe 17 that he  
20 has "pussy skin ... [and is] not a real man," and telling John Doe 15 that "I will eat your ass."  
21 One time, Nakamura even bear crawled across the baseball field and said, "Oh, look at [John Doe  
22 17]'s ass. Look at that. I want a piece of that."

23           50. Despite such verbal abuse, Plaintiffs wanted to succeed and stay at USF, but, when  
24 they expressed this to Coach Defendants, they were regularly told that they should give up their  
25 guaranteed scholarships, leave USF, and never play baseball again.

26           51. This verbal abuse was often accompanied by physical abuse by the Coach  
27 Defendants. On one occasion, Giarratano punched John Doe 15 in the chest in front of the entire  
28

1 team before yelling “I will eat your ass if you ever disrespect me like that again.” Likewise,  
2 Giarratano aggressively shoved John Doe 17 for his performance during a conditioning run while  
3 saying “you fucking suck.” On another occasion, while telling John Doe 17 that he was “the  
4 biggest mistake he made,” Giarratano grabbed John Doe 17 by the neck, squeezed tightly, and  
5 threw him violently to the ground.

6 52. As a result of his sexualized and abusive environment, Plaintiffs did not feel  
7 comfortable being around the Coach Defendants or at practice. At the same time, Defendants’  
8 conduct was so normalized on the baseball team that Plaintiffs began questioning if something  
9 was wrong with them for feeling uncomfortable with the Coach Defendants’ conduct.

10 **D. Defendants Retaliated Against Players Who Resisted the Sexualized Conduct,**  
11 **Including Plaintiffs, Causing a Deterrent Effect Within the Team.**

12 53. The Coach Defendants’ abuse did not stop at their underlying misconduct. Instead,  
13 they enforced their team motto, “loose lips sink ships,” and engaged in a pattern and practice of  
14 retaliation against players, like Plaintiffs, who resisted their toxic, sexualized environment. USF  
15 supported this retaliation by allowing the Coach Defendants to run Plaintiffs and other players off  
16 the team in record numbers and by permitting the Coach Defendants to withdraw Plaintiffs’ and  
17 other players’ guaranteed scholarships in violation of USF and NCAA policies.

18 54. All Plaintiffs experienced some form of retaliation by the Coach Defendants—  
19 agents of USF—for refusing to accede to the Coach Defendants’ sexualized culture. This  
20 retaliation took the form of, among other things, revoking or threatening to revoke scholarships,  
21 providing no or less playing time, ostracizing Plaintiffs, forcing Plaintiffs to do extra physical  
22 tasks when injured, and blackballing Plaintiffs’ baseball prospects at other schools or  
23 professionally. Physical abuse, as discussed above, also often followed Plaintiffs’ rejection of the  
24 sexualized environment, including Giarratano purposefully throwing pitches to hit Plaintiffs in  
25 the genitalia or violently throwing Plaintiffs to the ground.

26 55. Another common form of retaliation was being run off the baseball team by the  
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1 Coach Defendants.<sup>11</sup> Beginning in January 2015, the NCAA permitted conferences to start  
2 providing four-year guaranteed scholarships, which prevented coaches from deciding not to  
3 renew players' scholarships to free up scholarship money for someone else.

4 56. To avoid this limitation, the Coach Defendants implemented a system of  
5 retaliation, intended to get rid of players who did not play along or fit within the sexually charged  
6 culture they created. Of the 11 or 12 recruits in the 2001 freshman class, only one or two stayed  
7 for all four years. Of the 12 or 13 recruits in the 2013 USF baseball class, 75%, or all but five,  
8 transferred in the following four years. Of the 13 recruits in the 2017 class, only five stayed for  
9 four years. Of the 16 recruits in the 2020 USF baseball class, eleven transferred. This transfer rate  
10 stands in stark contrast with the 2018-19 percentage of four-year college transfers among  
11 Division I student-athletes on baseball teams, which was just 2.3%, or the fourth lowest rate out  
12 of all 38 NCAA Division men and women's sports. These abnormally high transfer rates put USF  
13 on notice of a serious problem within the baseball program that should have resulted in a Title IX  
14 investigation long before Plaintiffs attended USF.

15 57. Because of this conduct, the threat of retaliation was also ubiquitous, leaving  
16 Plaintiffs scared to bring their concerns up directly to the Coach Defendants.

17 58. All Plaintiffs experienced retaliation from the Coach Defendants.

18 59. John Doe 15 left USF after his freshman year, despite his guaranteed four-year  
19 scholarship and the Coach Defendants wishes that he stay at USF. Initially, wanting to fulfil his  
20 dream of playing professional baseball and given his guaranteed four-year scholarship, John Doe  
21 15 chose to return for the Spring semester of his freshman year despite the sexualized and toxic  
22 environment on the baseball team. Following his return, Giarratano physically assaulted John Doe  
23 15 and sexually humiliated him by punching John Doe 15 before yelling "I will eat your ass if  
24 you ever disrespect me like that again." Giarratano then proceeded to limit John Doe 15's playing  
25 time. The Coach Defendants also used threats against John Doe 15 to prevent him from reporting  
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27 <sup>11</sup> Being "run off" a team occurs when a coach kicks or otherwise forces the player off the team  
28 for reasons other than those that are academic or disciplinary, i.e., reasons not within the student-  
athlete's control.



1 the abuse, explaining that they had “killed” other players who had complained about the Coach  
2 Defendants’ misconduct to USF and were no longer on the baseball team. Such retaliation,  
3 combined with the intolerable environment on the baseball team, made it impossible for John Doe  
4 15 to remain at USF without further negatively impacting his mental health.

5 60. John Doe 16 left USF after only one semester due to the Coach Defendants’  
6 misconduct, including retaliation that minimized his playing time and worked to run John Doe 16  
7 off the team despite his guaranteed four-year scholarship. The Coach Defendants told John Doe  
8 16 that he would never play at USF and should just give up his guaranteed scholarship and not  
9 come back. When John Doe 16 communicated his intent to return to USF, the Coach Defendants  
10 told him that, if he ever returned, they would make sure he never played baseball again. The  
11 Coach Defendants then forced John Doe 16 to renounce his guaranteed scholarship.

12 61. John Doe 17 left USF after only three weeks due to the Coach Defendants’  
13 misconduct and retaliation despite his guaranteed and full four-year scholarship. The Coach  
14 Defendants physically assaulted John Doe 17 on several occasions, including squeezing John Doe  
15 17’s neck, throwing him to the ground, and hurling balls at his genitalia. John Doe 17 was also  
16 ostracized and regularly told by the Coach Defendants to “kill yourself” and that he was “the  
17 biggest mistake [Giarratano] made.”

18 62. John Doe 18 was regularly subjected to retaliation for not participating in the  
19 Coach Defendants’ sexualized environment. Not only did Giarratano have John Doe 18 engage in  
20 sexualized exercises when he made a conscious effort to avoid it, but he forced him to play  
21 through a meniscus tear and worked to actively blackball John Doe 18 by telling every MLB  
22 scout interested in John Doe 18 that they shouldn’t touch him.

23 63. John Doe 19 left USF after his freshman year due to the Coach Defendants’  
24 misconduct and retaliation. Clearly uncomfortable with the sexualized environment on the team,  
25 the Coach Defendants forced him to play through a back injury and told him to “fucking leave  
26 this program; we don’t want you here – I don’t care if you never play baseball again.”  
27  
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1           **E.     USF Was Long Aware of—and Permitted—the Coaches’ Abuse.**

2           64.     USF knew of the abusive culture throughout its Athletic Department, affecting  
3 sports from men’s soccer to women’s basketball. The baseball team was not immune, but USF  
4 persistently ignored and/or actively concealed evidence to the contrary.

5           65.     As early as the fall of 2000, baseball players began elevating concerns about the  
6 Coach Defendants to USF. Formal complaints were made to USF’s Administration in at least  
7 2000, 2013, 2014, and 2021, in addition to players in 2000, 2014, and 2020 who noted on their  
8 exit paperwork that they were leaving USF because of the Coach Defendants and the environment  
9 on the baseball team. Nothing came of these reports and USF took no meaningful action to  
10 address the complaints or investigate the environment on the baseball team further. This was true  
11 despite USF also being put on notice of sexualized incidents regarding the baseball team in 2013,  
12 2016, 2017, 2019, and 2021, and despite complaints to numerous members of Athletic  
13 Department staff about the Coach Defendants in 2013, 2014, 2017, 2018, and 2021.

14           66.     These reports represent the players brave enough to come forward and report the  
15 misconduct despite fear of the Coach Defendants’ retaliation, as detailed herein. The Coach  
16 Defendants exploited their power imbalance to normalize a culture of silence, coercion, and abuse  
17 on USF’s baseball team. A coach’s authority and the associated power-dynamic and pressures are  
18 significant factors in determining whether athletes report a coach’s misconduct. *See* ECF No.  
19 300-021 ¶¶ 21-38, Supplemental Expert Report of Robert Boland, J.D., *John Does 1-14 v.*  
20 *University of San Francisco, et al.*, Case No. 3:22-cv-1559-LB (N.D. Cal) (hereinafter  
21 “Supplemental Boland Report”). It is for that reason that “team dynamics commonly minimize or  
22 deny misconduct ... [a phenomenon that] is amplified when the conduct involves hazing or  
23 sexual, taboo, or embarrassing matters.” *Id.* ¶ 35. Here, the Coach Defendants used “hazing” and  
24 [other coercive behaviors] as a form of grooming, reinforcing a culture of fear and compliance,  
25 and conditioning student-athletes to accept mistreatment and not report (or even recognize)  
26 abuse.” *Id.* ¶ 22. As such, players, including Plaintiffs, were led to believe that the Coach  
27 Defendants’ misconduct was normal.

28           67.     “For its part, USF failed to implement adequate anti-hazing measures, contributing

1 to the overall climate of abuse, and leaving student-athletes vulnerable to both physical and  
2 sexual misconduct.” *Id.* “[N]ot only were USF’s policies and trainings inadequate, but the entire  
3 structure of its Athletic Department and administration all but ensured that misconduct was not  
4 identified, reported, or prevented. This further compounded the culture of abuse.” *Id.* ¶ 9.

5 68. Others had notified USF of issues within the Athletic Department. In July of 2020,  
6 sexual assault and abuse allegations spanning ten years were revealed against members of the  
7 USF Men’s Soccer Team. *See* ECF No. 133 ¶ 64. A Change.org petition described a homophobic  
8 and misogynistic “toxic” sexual environment on the men’s soccer team, which led to the  
9 suspension of a professional soccer player based on his conduct while at USF as a student-athlete.  
10 *Id.* The petition—signed by over 5,000 individuals—stated that USF’s reporting system is  
11 ineffective and that USF dismisses allegations of sexual misconduct and demanded that USF  
12 investigate the sexual misconduct claims involving the men’s soccer team. *Id.*

13 69. In response to this petition, USF investigated the misconduct, including USF’s  
14 handling of the misconduct, and released a 53-page report on January 11, 2021. *Id.* ¶ 65. Despite  
15 the graphic nature of the incidents reported, as well as the fact that 11 soccer players were  
16 accused of engaging in sexual misconduct over the past decade, the investigative report  
17 determined that it is more likely than not that sexual misconduct and/or disrespectful behavior  
18 towards women and/or LGBTQIA individuals was not pervasive among members of the USF  
19 men’s soccer team over the past decade, and that USF had acted diligently in response to reported  
20 allegations of sexual misconduct involving soccer players over the past 10 years. *Id.*

21 70. Then, following the filing of *John Does 1-14 v. University of San Francisco, et al.*,  
22 Case No. 3:22-cv-1559-LB (N.D. Cal), in a USF-commissioned report dated August 28-29, 2023,  
23 Mitchell Malachowski (Faculty Athletic Representative, University of San Diego), Ellen Ferris  
24 (Senior Associate Commissioner, American Athletic Conference), and Bruce Rasmussen (Former  
25 Athletic Director, Creighton University) concluded that USF’s Athletic Department was  
26 understaffed and lacked sufficient checks and balances in the department structure and staffing to  
27 ensure issues could be identified and addressed before becoming a systemic problem. ECF No.  
28

300 at 1, 5, Plaintiffs’ Reply In Support of Class Certification, *John Does 1-14 v. University of San Francisco, et al.*, Case No. 3:22-cv-1559-LB (N.D. Cal).

71. The numerous reports of the Coach Defendants’ abuse ensured that USF, including President Fr. Fitzgerald, were well-aware of the “deep seated problems” on the baseball team. However, USF covered up the problems until the complaints grew too loud (and too public). This cover up was so blatant that members of USF’s Administration and Athletic Department even recognized that the university’s handling of the Coach Defendants’ sexual misconduct involved a cover up.

72. In 2021, a player’s parents demanded an “URGENT MEETING REQUEST” with Joan McDermott and were ignored. Likewise, despite numerous complaints at this time explaining the Coach Defendants’ misconduct, USF did not fire Giarratano. These complaints detailed, for example, Nakamura displaying and waving his genitalia in front of the whole team and in the presence of Giarratano and Nakamura placing his face in a player’s crotch while Giarratano laughed. Other complaints called USF out for not addressing the Coach Defendants abuse and misconduct. Instead of addressing these complaints—or the numerous complaints that had begun two decades earlier—USF issued Giarratano a letter of reprimand and allowed him to remain at USF, thereby continuing to cover-up his involvement in the misconduct and allowing it to continue until at least March 2022.

73. Plaintiffs expect that discovery will reveal just how deep USF’s cover up efforts went.

#### **F. Plaintiffs’ Individual Experiences**

##### **1. August 2020 – May 2021: John Doe 15.**

74. John Doe 15 was a standout player on his high school baseball team. Major League Baseball scouts attended John Doe 15’s games to watch him play, the San Francisco Giants, Mets, and Twins expressed interest in him, and he was projected to go in the 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> round of the Major Baseball League draft out of high school. Due to COVID, the number of draft rounds decreased, and John Doe 15 elected to pursue collegiate baseball instead to increase his

1 draft prospects. He was recruited by numerous Division I Universities.

2 75. In late summer of 2019, John Doe 15 attended an invite-only showcase baseball  
3 camp at USF after being nominated by Dom Robinson. Impressed by John Doe 15's play,  
4 Nakamura invited him on an official recruiting visit to USF where John Doe 15 met the entire  
5 coaching staff.

6 76. USF heavily recruited John Doe 15 based on his baseball skills and experience.  
7 John Doe 15 had not considered USF, but the Coach Defendants sold him on representations that  
8 he would excel under Giarratano's guidance, and that the Coach Defendants were invested in his  
9 development. Giarratano told John Doe 15: "We recruited you because you're a great player. If  
10 you suck, it's our fault and we've got to be better coaches... I don't cut kids ... You're either  
11 going to get drafted or graduate from USF ... I will see you at your wedding." John Doe 15 was  
12 also attracted to USF due to the caliber of the incoming players, the standard of education, and  
13 that USF was part of the West Coast Conference.

14 77. USF offered John Doe 15 guaranteed athletic grants-in-aid (scholarships) for four  
15 years, worth approximately \$50,000 per year. This guarantee was dispositive of John Doe 15's  
16 decision to commit to USF.

17 78. When John Doe 15 started at USF, he was not advised of and did not learn that  
18 USF had policies governing or prohibiting sexual harassment or other sexualized misconduct by  
19 coaches, did not see any policies displayed on campus, was not told about such policies at any  
20 orientation conducted for new students, and did not receive a publication that contained such  
21 policies.

22 79. When John Doe 15 started at USF, he was not advised of and did not learn of any  
23 rules or procedures for reporting charges of sexual harassment or misconduct by coaches or for  
24 pursuing availability remedies and resources, on or off campus, did not see any such rules or  
25 procedures displayed on campus, was not told about such rules or procedures at any orientation  
26 conducted for new students, and did not receive a publication that contained such rules or  
27 procedures.  
28

1           80.     Immediately upon joining the team, John Doe 15 was subject to an intolerable, and  
2 often sexualized, environment that the Coach Defendants created and perpetuated. From the  
3 outset of John Doe 15's freshman year, he was verbally berated by the Coach Defendants,  
4 including being yelled at by Nakamura for things as simple as asking to switch jersey numbers to  
5 his childhood number, even though other coaches, such as Allen Smoot, had approved the switch.

6           81.     John Doe 15 also regularly witnessed Nakamura's sexualized behavior on the  
7 baseball field, including inappropriate sexual remarks.

8           82.     In addition to the sexualized behavior that John Doe 15 witnessed, he was  
9 informed by his teammates about the sexualized conduct and nudity by Nakamura that occurred  
10 during the outfielders' practice and in front of Giarratano, including sexualized skits such as  
11 Nakamura pretending he was at a buffet by having a player do a handstand, grabbing that player's  
12 legs and splitting them open, then pretending to eat spaghetti from that player's genital region.

13           83.     John Doe 15 was shocked that such behavior was portrayed as a normal part of the  
14 team culture, even though John Doe 15 and some of his teammates would talk about how  
15 disgusting and strange this behavior was. As a result, John Doe 15 quickly became uncomfortable  
16 around the Coach Defendants.

17           84.     On another occasion, John Doe 15 was in the bullpen when Nakamura  
18 helicoptered his penis around on the baseball field in front of several players. This led John Doe  
19 15 to do his best to avoid Nakamura out of fear that he would either verbally berate him or say  
20 something sexually inappropriate.

21           85.     Giarratano also regularly denigrated and taunted John Doe 15, saying things such  
22 as "You might be the best pitcher on the team, but I wouldn't bet on you." He also told John Doe  
23 15 that "you need to change who you are and conform to this culture." Giarratano was also aware  
24 that John Doe 15 was roommates with John Does 1 and 2, and would threaten John Doe 15 in  
25 strange ways, such as saying "You don't have roommates, I killed them."

26           86.     John Doe 15 was shocked to find that the Coach Defendants' behavior was  
27 normalized and that players were coerced into participation or tolerance to avoid retaliation. In  
28

1 fact, John Doe 15 noticed that the Coach Defendants also retaliated against his parents (in  
2 addition to the parents of John Does 1 and 2) by providing them with inferior seating at baseball  
3 games compared to other parents.

4 87. Despite the verbally and sexually hostile environment, John Doe 15 did not want  
5 to leave USF. If John Doe 15 chose to leave, he understood that he would lose his guaranteed  
6 scholarship and valuable playing time under the NCAA's transfer rules. Staying and succeeding  
7 at USF was important to John Doe 15, who wanted to become the best possible player and aspired  
8 to play professional baseball following college. After playing professionally, he had goals of  
9 becoming a lawyer and knew that USF's education was a stepping-stone towards that goal.

10 88. John Doe 15 returned for the Spring semester, where he earned the coveted spot of  
11 pitching as a true freshman in the season opener against UCLA, the number two team in the  
12 country at the time.

13 89. Despite this positive start to the Spring semester, a few weeks later in the game  
14 against UCSB, Giarratano physically assaulted John Doe 15 and sexually humiliated him. During  
15 a tied game, John Doe 15 walked two players in a row and was taken out of the game. John Doe  
16 15, disappointed in himself, handed Giarratano the ball on the mound and walked back to the  
17 dugout. In response, and in the dugout, Giarratano yelled, "You motherfucker!" and punched  
18 John Doe 15 in the chest with enough force to move him before proceeding to yell, "You  
19 disrespected me out there. I will eat your ass if you ever disrespect me like that again." The  
20 majority of players and coaching staff at the time witnessed the incident.

21 90. On the bus home from UCSB, Giarratano came back and sat with John Doe 15  
22 and, in an attempt to justify his behavior, said "Don't worry about it, this was no big deal ... I just  
23 want you to know, one time I tried to head butt this kid's helmet off his fucking head." This  
24 comment only further upset John Doe 15, who viewed this as a veiled threat not to tell anyone  
25 about what had happened. Again, the players and coaching staff on the bus likely witnessed this  
26 incident.

27 91. Following the UCSB game, John Doe 15 was ridiculed by his teammates and  
28

1 coaches that Giarratano wanted to eat John Doe 15's ass. Giarratano then purposely excluded  
2 John Doe 15 from attending the next several away games.

3 92. John Doe 15 was finally invited to attend an away game when USF travelled to  
4 Sacramento to play against Sacramento State. Due to COVID, and restrictions about how many  
5 players could be in the dugout, John Doe 15 and three other players were sitting and chatting  
6 outside of the dugout during the game. Nakamura came over and, in earshot of USF and  
7 Sacramento State players, parents, and spectators, yelled, "Fuck you all! You motherfuckers! You  
8 fucking cunts." Parents from both teams were shocked by Nakamura's behavior, and John Doe 15  
9 understood that Sacramento State parents reported the incident to USF.

10 93. John Doe 15 did not want to go to practice due to being uncomfortable and scared  
11 of Nakamura and Giarratano. He became nervous and anxious, which led to decreased  
12 performance on the baseball field. John Doe 15 also began to struggle with eating and lost 20  
13 pounds in the span of a few months, being so worried that Giarratano would physically assault  
14 him again. He lost motivation, became depressed, and his grades dropped.

15 94. John Doe 15's parents were extremely worried about him, as he would regularly  
16 call his father telling him that he was depressed and anxious and hated being at USF. On one  
17 occasion, John Doe 15 broke down to his father on the phone, saying "they [the Coach  
18 Defendants] won't help me."

19 95. By the end of his freshman year, John Doe 15 decided that he needed to leave USF  
20 in order to protect his mental health and get the coaching support he deserved.

21 96. After leaving USF, John Doe 15 transferred to another Division I University. He  
22 was excited to have a second chance to make it to the Major Leagues but discovered that the  
23 emotional and physical consequences of the Coach Defendants' behavior followed him. John Doe  
24 15 found his anxiety persisted, he was less trusting and more suspicious of coaches, and he had  
25 lost his love and passion for baseball.

26 **2. August 2020 – December 2020: John Doe 16.**

27 97. John Doe 16 was a talented baseball player. By 10<sup>th</sup> grade, he was part of an elite  
28



1 travel team that was managed by a Major League Baseball scout. Heading into his junior year of  
2 high school, he attended numerous college baseball camps and received significant recruiting  
3 interest from Division I, II, and III schools. As a high school junior, he was MVP of his high  
4 school varsity baseball team, earned First Team All-Conference, All-Area , and Third Team All-  
5 State honors, and was the 10<sup>th</sup> ranked catcher in the State of California by Prep Baseball Report.

6 98. In November of 2018, he was invited on a recruiting visit to USF. USF heavily  
7 recruited John Doe 16 based on his baseball skills and experience. During the recruiting visit,  
8 USF offered John Doe 16 guaranteed athletic and academic grants-in-aid (scholarship) for four  
9 years, worth approximately \$50,000 per year. This guarantee was dispositive of John Doe 16's  
10 decision to commit to USF, in addition to USF's representations during the recruiting process that  
11 he would start as a freshman and that they expected him to be a high-level draft prospect.

12 99. In August 2020, just before John Doe 16 was set to arrive at USF, he suffered a  
13 hamate bone fracture playing summer baseball and had surgical repair. The Coach Defendants  
14 were aware of this injury, approved his surgery, and were supportive of his recovery process—he  
15 was told that he was the first recruit in his class, and that the Coach Defendants were basing the  
16 recruiting team around him.

17 100. When John Doe 16 started at USF, he was not advised of and did not learn that  
18 USF had policies governing or prohibiting sexual harassment or other sexualized misconduct by  
19 coaches, did not see any policies displayed on campus, was not told about such policies at any  
20 orientation conducted for new students, and did not receive a publication that contained such  
21 policies.

22 101. When John Doe 16 started at USF, he was not advised of and did not learn of any  
23 rules or procedures for reporting charges of sexual harassment or misconduct by coaches or for  
24 pursuing availability remedies and resources, on or off campus, did not see any such rules or  
25 procedures displayed on campus, was not told about such rules or procedures at any orientation  
26 conducted for new students, and did not receive a publication that contained such rules or  
27 procedures.  
28

1           102. When John Doe 16 arrived on campus, he was subject to strict quarantine rules due  
2 to the COVID policies on USF's campus. Not only did this isolation affect John Doe 16's morale  
3 but, once he was cleared to practice, John Doe 16 was subject to an intolerable environment  
4 created and perpetuated by the Coach Defendants.

5           103. The Coach Defendants immediately began berating, mentally abusing, and  
6 ostracizing John Doe 16 in front of the other players. He was repeatedly told by the Coach  
7 Defendants that they had made a mistake in recruiting John Doe 16. Such verbal beratement and  
8 humiliation was common, and normalized, including towards those players unable to run a six  
9 minute mile who were then subject to "fat camp." During "fat camp," a term coined by the Coach  
10 Defendants, players were required to do additional conditioning at 5:00 a.m. on Tuesdays and  
11 Thursdays, in addition to beach workouts at 7:00 a.m. on Saturdays. Because John Doe 16 did not  
12 run a six minute mile, he was forced to participate in "fat camp" while rehabilitating from a  
13 significant injury during the COVID-19 pandemic.

14           104. John Doe 16 also experienced the Coach Defendants making sexual comments in  
15 front of players on the baseball field, including one sexual innuendo about a player's sister.

16           105. John Doe 16 was shocked to find that the Coach Defendants' behavior was  
17 normalized and began to dread going to practice and seeing the Coach Defendants. He was  
18 terrified of being yelled at and of how unpredictable Giarratano was. John Doe 16 quickly  
19 became depressed, distressed, and unmotivated.

20           106. The Coach Defendants also began retaliating against John Doe 16 by minimizing  
21 his playing time in scrimmages. They also actively worked to run John Doe 16 off the team. In  
22 December of 2020, John Doe 16 had an exit interview with the coaching staff. During this  
23 meeting, the Coach Defendants continued to verbally berate John Doe 16, telling him that he  
24 hadn't done anything well this semester, was never going to play at USF, and that John Doe 16  
25 should just give up his guaranteed scholarship money and not come back.

26           107. John Doe 16 did not want to leave USF. If John Doe 16 chose to leave, he  
27 understood that he would lose his guaranteed scholarship and valuable playing time under the  
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1 NCAA's transfer rules. As such, John Doe 16 communicated his intent to return to USF, but the  
2 Coach Defendants told him that, if he returned, he would never play baseball again and would be  
3 wasting his time.

4 108. The Coach Defendants then forced John Doe 16 to renounce his guaranteed  
5 scholarship. On his exit paperwork, John Doe 16 noted that he was leaving USF against his will  
6 and that he was being forced to sign away his scholarship. No one from USF followed up with  
7 John Doe 16 about these comments.

8 109. After leaving USF, John Doe 16 transferred to a city college. Although he was  
9 relieved to be out of the abusive environment at USF, the emotional consequences of Coach  
10 Defendants' behavior followed him. While Major League Baseball scouts approached John Doe  
11 16 during his time at his new school, he continued to feel depressed, was drinking heavily, had  
12 lost his love for baseball, and had suicidal thoughts. This led John Doe 16 to seek psychiatric  
13 treatment, where he was diagnosed with Chronic Depression, Generalized Anxiety Disorder, and  
14 Hyperactive/Inattentive ADHD.

15 110. In December 2021, John Doe 16's father filed a Title IX Complaint with USF.  
16 This complaint outlined the Coach Defendants' inappropriate treatment, including retaliation  
17 against John Doe 16 and forcing John Doe 16 to give up his scholarship and leave USF. John Doe  
18 16's father specifically noted that this was a cultural issue: "It is very telling that [John Doe 16's]  
19 2020 USF baseball recruiting class had a total of 17 recruits, of which seven have transferred and  
20 two more are planning to transfer ...[i]t is a testament to the coaching staff's ruthlessness and  
21 callous player treatment."

22 111. That same day, John Doe 16's father emailed Diane Nelson about his Title IX  
23 complaint, explaining that John Doe 16 "was bullied, intimidated, and abused by the coaching  
24 staff during the fall of 2020 ... Because of the traumatic baseball experience at USF, [John Doe  
25 16] suffers from anxiety and depression. In the Spring of 2021, [John Doe 16] experienced  
26 suicidal thoughts." John Doe 16's suicidal thoughts continued until early Summer of 2022.

1                                   **3.       August 2020 – September 2020: John Doe 17.**

2           112.   John Doe 17 has a long history of success in baseball. He was on his high school's  
3 varsity team in 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grade, and John Doe 17's travel baseball team was one of the  
4 top ranked teams in the nation. By his junior year of high school, John Doe 17 was heavily  
5 recruited by numerous Division I Universities, and received letters of interest from various Major  
6 League Baseball teams, including the White Sox, the Phillies, and the Diamondbacks. John Doe  
7 17's goal was to be drafted and play in the Major Leagues, and he believed that playing Division I  
8 baseball would only increase his draft prospects.

9           113.   In July 2019, Nakamura watched John Doe 17 play in Arizona. USF heavily  
10 recruited John Doe 17 based on his baseball skills and experience and, shortly after watching  
11 John Doe 7 play, Nakamura invited John Doe 17 on an official recruiting visit to USF.

12           114.   While on his recruiting visit to USF, John Doe 17 was offered guaranteed and full  
13 four-year athletic and academic grants-in-aid (scholarships). Nakamura explained to John Doe 17  
14 that "USF is one of the few schools that exclusively offer 4 year scholarship contracts ... It is our  
15 commitment toward your degree from world class University where you will be surrounded by  
16 people who are passionately committed to help you become the best version of yourself  
17 everyday." This guarantee of a full scholarship for four years was dispositive of John Doe 17's  
18 decision to commit to USF. John Doe 17 also felt that USF was his best path to play professional  
19 baseball.

20           115.   When John Doe 17 started at USF, he was not advised of and did not learn that  
21 USF had policies governing or prohibiting sexual harassment or other sexualized misconduct by  
22 coaches, did not see any policies displayed on campus, was not told about such policies at any  
23 orientation conducted for new students, and did not receive a publication that contained such  
24 policies.

25           116.   When John Doe 17 started at USF, he was not advised of and did not learn of any  
26 rules or procedures for reporting charges of sexual harassment or misconduct by coaches or for  
27 pursuing availability remedies and resources, on or off campus, did not see any such rules or  
28 procedures displayed on campus, was not told about such rules or procedures at any orientation

1 conducted for new students, and did not receive a publication that contained such rules or  
2 procedures.

3 117. When John Doe 17 arrived on campus, he was subject to strict quarantine rules due  
4 to the COVID policies on USF's campus, including being quarantined alone in his dorm room for  
5 14 days. Because the isolation was affecting John Doe 17's morale, his parents reached out to  
6 Giarratano. In response, Giarratano berated John Doe 17, telling him that he was pathetic and that  
7 his "mommy" needed to stop calling.

8 118. Immediately upon starting practices, John Doe 17 was subject to an intolerable  
9 environment that the Coach Defendants created, perpetuated, and normalized. Sexualized  
10 comments by the Coach Defendants were common, including about females on campus and other  
11 players' genitalia. Such comments led John Doe 17 to avoid using the baseball locker room as he  
12 was anxious the Coach Defendants would comment on his own genitals.

13 119. The Coach Defendants also immediately began to verbally abuse John Doe 17,  
14 with Giarratano saying things like "What the fuck are you doing here? I forgot we even recruited  
15 you." Despite having promised John Doe 17 new jerseys and baseball gloves during the recruiting  
16 process, the Coach Defendants refused to give John Doe 17 proper gear and, instead, provided  
17 pants that were far too big for him. The Coach Defendants then proceeded to make fun of John  
18 Doe 17's ill-fitted clothes, calling him a "little leaguer," "pathetic," and a piece of shit."

19 120. Such verbal beratement was common, including towards those players unable to  
20 run a six minute mile who were subject to "fat camp." During "fat camp," a term coined by the  
21 Coach Defendants, players were required to do additional conditioning on the weekends. During  
22 one of the runs as part of the additional conditioning, John Doe 17 finished last. When he  
23 finished, Giarratano pushed John Doe 17 off to the side to isolate him and said, "Wow you  
24 fucking suck. Really? A seven minute mile. We expected you to be the top athlete." Giarratano  
25 then shoved John Doe 17 and walked away.

26 121. During "fat camp," Nakamura would bear crawl and say things such as, "Oh, look  
27 at [John Doe 17]'s ass. Look at that. I want a piece of that." Taunts by the Coach Defendants at  
28

1 fat camp were also common and often sexually humiliating, such as “Oh, imagine having to go to  
2 fat camp, those fucking losers, they probably get no pussy.”

3 122. Giarratano also physically assaulted John Doe 17 on numerous occasions. After  
4 one practice, Giarratano told John Doe 17 to meet him in center field. There, Giarratano yelled at  
5 John Doe 17 calling him a “worthless piece of shit.” Giarratano also told John Doe 17 that he was  
6 “the biggest mistake he made,” that he “never should have brought you here” to USF, and that he  
7 wished the NCAA would change the rules and “let me put my hands on you.” Giarratano then  
8 grabbed John Doe 17 by the neck, squeezing him tightly, and threw him violently to the ground.  
9 John Doe 17 started throwing up from the abuse. Later that day, Nakamura called John Doe 17  
10 and told him he was “such a lazy fuck” and needed to “do better in life.”

11 123. Giarratano would also physically intimidate and threaten John Doe 17 during  
12 batting practice by hurling balls at his genitalia. Whenever John Doe 17 missed the ball during  
13 practice, Giarratano would also push or shove him. This physical contact was often combined  
14 with humiliating verbal insults such as “dipshit,” “dumbass,” “asshole,” and “retard.” Oftentimes,  
15 the insults were sexualized. One time John Doe 17 dove for the ball and was bleeding and  
16 Giarratano said, “Oh yeah, that’s that pussy skin. You’re not a real man.” This verbal denigration  
17 was constant, and typically in front of his teammates. It included “You’re not a man, you lift  
18 weights like a bitch” and, separately, “Your parents raised you like a bitch. Why were you ever  
19 conceived? Your dad should have left a condom on.” Other times, it was aggressive “You fucking  
20 suck, kill yourself” or “you’re worthless” “I wish you were never born.”

21 124. The physical and mental abuse that Giarratano and Nakamura inflicted on John  
22 Doe 17 in the three weeks he was on campus had a profound impact on him. He became anxious  
23 and depressed, found himself unable to leave his dorm room, and was throwing up  
24 uncontrollably, including at practice.

25 125. John Doe 17 eventually withdrew from USF and quit baseball. When he got home,  
26 he took down his baseball hats and sold all his gear. After arriving home, John Doe 17 also went  
27 to the emergency room several times due to his persistent anxiety and suicidal thoughts. As a  
28

1 result, John Doe 17 was unable to engage in the numerous Division I collegiate baseball teams  
2 that reached out to recruit him after leaving USF, thereby impacting John Doe 17's collegiate and  
3 professional baseball prospects.

4 126. John Doe 17 continues to suffer with anxiety, struggling to leave the house, return  
5 to college, or keep a full-time job. He has since been diagnosed with severe PTSD, anxiety, and  
6 depression as a result of the Coach Defendants' conduct. While John Doe 17 takes medication to  
7 address his anxiety, he still struggles and experiences anxiety when leaving the house and  
8 interacting with others.

9 127. While at USF, John Doe 17's mother called USF numerous times to complain  
10 during the onslaught of abuse by the Coach Defendants. Nothing was done by USF in response.  
11 Instead, Giarratano and Nakamura told John Doe 17 to "stop lying" and stop "making excuses  
12 like a little bitch."

13 128. On March 4, 2022, John Doe 17's mother emailed Nakamura and another USF  
14 coach, Mathew Keplinger, and asked that the email be forwarded to Giarratano also. In that email,  
15 she detailed the abuse, including the Coach Defendants referring to John Doe 17 as a "mistake",  
16 the \$7,000 bill that John Doe 17 received after leaving USF, and explained that "You have ruined  
17 everything for him. Toughlove is one thing' psychological abuse, demeaning and degrading these  
18 kids is something else."

19 129. On March 16, 2022, John Doe 17's mother forwarded the March 4, 2022 email to  
20 Joan McDermott, and added that John Doe 17 "came over on a full scholarship to play baseball in  
21 August 2020 and left recently after because of the mistreatment and misconduct from your  
22 coaches. Now all of this has come to light in the news and my son finally has some validation.  
23 This is unacceptable and inexcusable. These coaches have ruined everything for my son and so  
24 many players."

25 130. On March 16, 2022, Joan McDermott thanked John Doe 17's mother for the email  
26 and asked if she could share it with "upper administration." John Doe 17's mother said "Please  
27 do! ... He was forced out by Nino and Naks!"  
28

1           131. By May 8, 2022, the \$7000 bill still had not been resolved. John Doe 17's mother  
2           emailed USF about the bill explaining that John Doe 17 "came over on a FULL SCHOLARSHIP  
3           in Aug 2020/Baseball. He moved in Aug 15, 2020 and moved out/left that school Sept 9, 2020!  
4           He was forced out by the misconduct and abusive behavior of your baseball coaches. We received  
5           this \$7000+ bill weeks after he got home. It has now all surfaced a couple of years later, the  
6           school admitting guilt by firing Coach Nakamura and Nino, BUT THE SCHOOL STILL IS  
7           TRYING TO COLLECT THIS MONEY! This is absolutely ridiculous!! He was forced out!"

8                           **4. August 2020 – May 2023: John Doe 18.**

9           132. John Doe 18 was a standout high school baseball player. He lettered and earned  
10          multiple All-Conference and All-State Awards. During his senior year of high school, John Doe  
11          18 earned Second Team All-American Honors, and was named County Player of the Year and  
12          First Team All-County. Thereafter, John Doe 18 attended Junior College and excelled as a  
13          freshman and sophomore having multi-home run games and guiding the team to Conference  
14          Championship.

15          133. In the summer of 2020, Nakamura invited John Doe 18 to visit USF. John Doe 18  
16          was subsequently offered a guaranteed 5% athletic scholarship. This scholarship, accompanied by  
17          the academic scholarship that John Doe 18 was awarded (covering half of his tuition), was  
18          dispositive of John Doe 18's decision to continue his baseball career at USF.

19          134. When John Doe 18 started at USF, he was not advised of and did not learn that  
20          USF had policies governing or prohibiting sexual harassment or other sexualized misconduct by  
21          coaches, did not see any policies displayed on campus, was not told about such policies at any  
22          orientation conducted for new students, and did not receive a publication that contained such  
23          policies.

24          135. When John Doe 18 started at USF, he was not advised of and did not learn of any  
25          rules or procedures for reporting charges of sexual harassment or misconduct by coaches or for  
26          pursuing availability remedies and resources, on or off campus, did not see any such rules or  
27          procedures displayed on campus, was not told about such rules or procedures at any orientation  
28



1 conducted for new students, and did not receive a publication that contained such rules or  
2 procedures.

3 136. Immediately upon joining the team, John Doe 18 was subject to an intolerable,  
4 sexualized environment that the Coach Defendants created and perpetuated. Each day, John Doe  
5 17 was subject to sexualized skits and then café exercises. At the beginning of base running,  
6 players were split into groups of four, assigned a base, and asked to perform a skit as an  
7 “icebreaker.” Giarratano would stand on the pitching mound, judge each base’s skit, and declare a  
8 winner. Nakamura would always join the players on 3<sup>rd</sup> base and engage in sexualized skits. On  
9 one occasion, John Doe 18 witnessed Nakamura going into the dugout and coming out  
10 completely naked as part of his skit. John Doe 18 immediately turned to another player and said:  
11 “I can’t do this anymore.” Following the skit, Allen Smoot told the players in the 1<sup>st</sup> base group  
12 that “if anyone finds that out, we’re all fired.” Other inappropriate sexual conduct during the skits  
13 was common and was portrayed as ‘normal’ within the team culture, which shocked John Doe 18.

14 137. Immediately following the base running, hitters (including John Doe 18) would be  
15 divided into two groups—one would go to the batting cages with Allen Smoot and the other  
16 would stay and hit with Giarratano and Nakamura. Those players who stayed with Giarratano and  
17 Nakamura would be asked to stand in a circle around the batter’s box before hitting with the  
18 Coaches in the front and engage in “café” exercises. During these exercises, Giarratano or  
19 Nakamura would identify a dinner theme (such as barbecue or fast food) and set the tone by  
20 saying what they would bring to the dinner/order (such as a type of drink or food). Giarratano and  
21 Nakamura would regularly choose inappropriate answers, such as bodily fluids or alcohol, and  
22 identify a woman’s body part that they would drink it off of. The players would then be asked to  
23 participate one by one. When shy or new players on the team ordered a normal drink or specified  
24 a normal body part, they would be booed. These exercises happened regularly, if not daily, and  
25 the Defendant Coaches’ answers progressively got more inappropriate and disgusting. John Doe  
26 18 recalls being disgusted by this behavior and found it very difficult to refocus and carry on with  
27 hitting practice. Such behavior also made him increasingly uncomfortable with being in the  
28

1 locker rooms, and showering, with the Coach Defendants in the room.

2 138. To avoid engaging in these café exercises, John Doe 18 always tried to go to the  
3 batting cages with Allen Smoot instead. Giarratano called John Doe 18 out for avoiding him and  
4 asked why John Doe 18 was scared of him and hiding in the batting cages. Giarratano then  
5 strongly advised John Doe 18 to regularly hit with Giarratano and engage in the café exercises.

6 139. Giarratano and Nakamura also sometimes showered with the players in the  
7 players' locker room.

8 140. During one away game during John Doe 18's first year at USF, players were split  
9 into groups of approximately five and assigned hotel rooms to shower. Following one game, John  
10 Doe 18 recalls walking into his assigned hotel room to find Nakamura already showering.  
11 Nakamura proceeded to exit the shower and, with no towel on, enter the main room before  
12 standing, unclothed, in the hotel room for approximately 15 minutes. While standing in the hotel  
13 room, Nakamura said various inappropriate things to John Doe 18 and the other players in the  
14 room, including discussing his sexual fantasies. Shortly thereafter, John Doe 18 went to take a  
15 shower. While doing so, Nakamura pulled the shower curtain open, said hello to John Doe 18,  
16 and briefly stood there while John Doe 18 was taking a shower before leaving the curtain open,  
17 washing his hands, and leaving the bathroom. This made John Doe 18 incredibly uncomfortable.

18 141. As soon as it became apparent to Giarratano and Nakamura that John Doe 18  
19 would not play along with the sexually charged behavior and was suffering from a meniscus  
20 injury (which was affecting John Doe 18's on field performance), the Coaches began to retaliate  
21 and emotionally abuse John Doe 18. Weekly, Giarratano would text John Doe 18 to come to the  
22 press box where, for hours, the Coaches would insult him, his family, and his girlfriend.

23 142. Further, when John Doe 18 first injured his knee and informed the Coaches that he  
24 had a meniscus tear, they refused to believe him and forced him to continue playing. John Doe 18  
25 went to two different respected doctors to get an MRI—both confirming the tear. When John Doe  
26 18 shared this with the Coach Defendants, Giarratano told him that he injured his knee because he  
27 was fat, not because he had an issue with his meniscus. When John Doe 18 then told the Coach  
28

1 Defendants that he wanted to get surgery to protect his knee instead of playing, the Coach  
2 Defendants told him that he was “soft,” didn’t want it enough, and threatened to cut him from the  
3 team if he chose to get surgery. John Doe 18 felt like the Coach Defendants questioned and  
4 attacked his integrity rather than addressing a serious surgical issue.

5 143. While at USF, John Doe 18 was also getting multiple calls from Major League  
6 Baseball teams who were expressing interest in him. John Doe 18 recalls that, one day,  
7 Giarratano called him into his office and told him not to worry about the MLB teams because  
8 Giarratano had called the scouts that were interested and told them not to touch John Doe 18.  
9 Being told this by Giarratano broke John Doe 18 mentally, having already been struggling to  
10 succeed as a player due to the sexualized culture on the baseball team and the retaliation by the  
11 Coach Defendants. John Doe 18 found himself in the lowest point of his life, becoming severely  
12 depressed, declining to go out with friends or leave his room, and finding himself fixated on  
13 mistakes he made while at USF.

14 144. John Doe 18 witnessed Giarratano and Nakamura retaliate against other players on  
15 the team. For those players that Giarratano wanted to cut, he would set up batting practice for  
16 only those individuals before practice for everyone else. During such practices, Giarratano would  
17 throw the ball at players as hard as possible to make it impossible to hit. This tactic happened  
18 every day and John Doe 18 understood it as a way to torment players into leaving USF.

19 145. When the initial lawsuit was filed, John Doe 18 recalls team meetings in the locker  
20 room where players would be taught how to lie and defend the Coach Defendants. Older players  
21 on the team also advised the team to text the Coach Defendants in support, which John Doe 18  
22 did to avoid any further retaliation.

23 146. As part of the Title IX investigation, the players were sat down on the field as Title  
24 IX Officers attempted to have a conversation about the Coach Defendants’ behavior. Out of fear  
25 of retaliation both from the Coach Defendants and other players, John Doe 18 remained silent.  
26 Other players pretended to have no clue what the Title IX Officers were talking about.

27 147. On December 19, 2021, John Doe 18 emailed Katrina Garry saying “I would like  
28

1 to be heard in this investigation. I was wondering if everything was confidential or not because it  
2 doesn't really seem like it."

3 **5. August 2021-May 2022: John Doe 19.**

4 148. John Doe 19 was a highly skilled baseball player in high school, ranked by Perfect  
5 Game as between a "Potential draft pick and/or excellent college prospect" and "Potential top 10  
6 round pick and/or highest level college prospect."

7 149. USF, at the encouragement of Giarratano, heavily recruited John Doe 19 based on  
8 his baseball skills and experience. By March 2021, Nakamura was regularly in contact with John  
9 Doe 19 about scholarship money and invited John Doe 19 to visit: "The [John Doe 19] DNA is  
10 special. You're built to grind and thrive. Looking forward to seeing you on the Hilltop in April."

11 150. During John Doe 19's visit to USF in April 2021, he had the opportunity to meet  
12 the team and the Coaches. John Doe 19 was told that he would start in right field immediately and  
13 that USF didn't currently have anyone to fill that position. John Doe 19 was also told that the  
14 Coach Defendants had got one of their star players a tryout with Team USA and, if John Doe 19  
15 played well enough, that would be an opportunity for him too. At the conclusion of the trip,  
16 Nakamura informed John Doe 19 that the Coach Defendants were working to free up money for  
17 him in Year 1 but promised him 50% of the cost of school at USF (approximately \$35,000 in  
18 addition to \$10,000-14,000 in academic scholarship) for the following years: "Can't tell you how  
19 impressed we were to meet you ... and even more excited to welcome to you the Hilltop Family."

20 151. Due to increased interest in John Doe 19 by other Division I baseball teams,  
21 including UCLA, the Coach Defendants ultimately offered John Doe 19 a 25% athletic grant-in-  
22 aid (scholarship) for his first year at USF which, as promised, would increase to 50% the  
23 following year. In addition to the academic scholarship that John Doe 19 was eligible for, and the  
24 additional financial aid secured by the Coach Defendants, John Doe 19's freshman year  
25 (including room and board) cost him only \$300 out-of-pocket. The guarantee of a four-year  
26 scholarship (which, with the academic scholarship and additional financial aid, was essentially a  
27 full scholarship) and the Coaches' representations that John Doe 19 would have an immediate  
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1 impact on the team and start, as a freshman, were dispositive of John Doe 19's decision to  
2 commit to USF.

3 152. When John Doe 19 started at USF, he was not advised of and did not learn that  
4 USF had policies governing or prohibiting sexual harassment or other sexualized misconduct by  
5 coaches, did not see any policies displayed on campus, was not told about such policies at any  
6 orientation conducted for new students, and did not receive a publication that contained such  
7 policies.

8 153. When John Doe 19 started at USF, he was not advised of and did not learn of any  
9 rules or procedures for reporting charges of sexual harassment or misconduct by coaches or for  
10 pursuing availability remedies and resources, on or off campus, did not see any such rules or  
11 procedures displayed on campus, was not told about such rules or procedures at any orientation  
12 conducted for new students, and did not receive a publication that contained such rules or  
13 procedures.

14 154. Immediately upon joining the team, John Doe 19 was subject to an intolerable,  
15 sexualized environment that the Coach Defendants created and perpetuated. Each day, John Doe  
16 19 was subject to sexualized skits. Players were split into small groups, assigned a base, and told  
17 to perform a skit as an "icebreaker." Giarratano would stand on the pitcher's mound, judge each  
18 base's skit, and declare a winner. On one occasion, John Doe 18 witnessed Nakamura, as part of  
19 his skit, go into the dugout and come out naked. On another occasion, John Doe 8 witnessed  
20 Nakamura touch his face to another player's genitalia and "motorboat" him. Other inappropriate  
21 sexual conduct during the skits was common.

22 155. Giarratano and Nakamura also regularly showered with the players in the players'  
23 locker room.

24 156. John Doe 19 was appalled by and uncomfortable with the Coach Defendants'  
25 behavior and the sexualized culture on the baseball team. He was also shocked to find that the  
26 Coach Defendants' behavior was normalized and that players were coerced into participation or  
27 tolerance to avoid retaliation. As a result, he attempted to avoid the Coach Defendants. When  
28

1 Nakamura asked John Doe 19 to do private hitting lessons with him, John Doe 19 did everything  
2 he could do avoid the lessons, nervous that Nakamura may inappropriately touch him during  
3 these one-on-one sessions or talk about uncomfortable sexual topics. John Doe 19 had also heard  
4 stories from other players on the team about the Coach Defendants showering with players and  
5 was nervous about traveling for this reason.

6 157. In addition, it became clear to John Doe 19 that the Coach Defendants had made  
7 false representations about his status on the team. When John Doe 19 arrived at USF, he learned  
8 that there were 8 outfielders—all returners, and four fifth years—competing for the position that  
9 Giarratano had told John Doe 19 was his as a freshman.

10 158. When it became apparent to the Coach Defendants that John Doe 19 would not  
11 play along with the sexually charged behavior on and off the field, they began to retaliate and  
12 emotionally abuse John Doe 19. Verbal abuse was common, with the Coach Defendants regularly  
13 calling John Doe 19 a “pussy” or other derogatory phrases, and Nakamura telling John Doe 19: “I  
14 hope you fucking leave this program; we don’t want you here – I don’t care if you never play  
15 baseball again, I don’t want to see your face.”

16 159. The Coach Defendants were well aware of John Doe 19’s history of lumbar stress  
17 fractures, evident from the beginning of the season when John Doe 19 was unable to participate in  
18 the mile run test because of his back pain. When John Doe 19 continued to have back issues,  
19 requiring regular rehabilitation with athletic training staff, the Coach Defendants would call him a  
20 “pussy” and tell him “you can’t make the club in the tub,” meaning that he would not make the  
21 team if he was always doing rehabilitation exercises. As a result, John Doe 19 was pressured to  
22 avoid the training room, which ensured that he did not get the treatment for his back that he  
23 needed. He was also forced to engage in the Coach Defendants’ beach workouts, which were the  
24 worst on his lower back. Despite being informed by his physical therapist at home not to do these  
25 beach workouts, John Doe 19 was so afraid of retaliation by the Coach Defendants that he forced  
26 himself to participate in excruciating pain. This led Doe 19’s back to get so bad that a surgeon  
27 suggested that he get a fusion in his back, meaning that he would never play baseball again. To  
28

1 continue his baseball career, John Doe 19 was, instead, forced to have spine surgery (with another  
2 required surgery anticipated in the future).

3 160. The Coach Defendants also tried to force John Doe 19 into a position that he had  
4 never played and was not recruited for. When John Doe 19 resisted, the Coach Defendants  
5 retaliated against him again by refusing to travel him and telling him that he was selfish, not a  
6 team player, and would never play for USF again.

7 161. Despite the verbally and sexually hostile environment, John Doe understood that,  
8 if he left USF, he would lose his scholarship and valuable playing time under the NCAA's  
9 transfer rules. Staying and succeeding at USF was important to John Doe 19, who wanted to  
10 become the best possible player and aspired to play professional baseball following college. John  
11 Doe 19 also feared that the Coach Defendants would blackball him if he attempted to transfer to  
12 another Division I University.

13 162. When John Doe 19 returned for the Spring semester, the Coach Defendants'  
14 continued behavior led him to become anxious, nervous, and depressed.

15 163. In the middle of the baseball season, while still playing for USF, John Doe 19  
16 decided to leave USF and enter the transfer portal in order to protect his mental health and get the  
17 coaching support he deserved.

18 164. After leaving USF, John Doe 19 transferred to another Division I University and  
19 had to accept a significantly lower scholarship. He was excited to have a second chance to make  
20 it to the Major Leagues but discovered that the emotional and physical consequences of the Coach  
21 Defendants' behavior followed him, his lower back continued to deteriorate due to the lack of  
22 adequate treatment and support at USF, and he had lost his love and passion for baseball.

23 165. Despite leaving USF, Giarratano continued to text John Doe 19 in late 2022,  
24 including with reference to the lawsuit filed by John Does 1-14, which made John Doe 19 very  
25 uncomfortable and fearful that Giarratano would attempt to blackball John Doe 19 at his new  
26 school.

1           **G. Plaintiffs Were Injured and Continue to be Injured.**

2           166. Plaintiffs’ harms stem from the fact that USF created a system that places a higher  
3 value on institutional reputations, at the expense of the student-athletes’ well-being.

4           167. The sexual, physical, and mental harassment and abuse many student-athletes—  
5 including the Plaintiffs in this case—have suffered have been accompanied by self-doubt, shame,  
6 blame, and guilt, and oftentimes requires years of reflection, meditation, counseling, medication,  
7 and psychotherapy. All the while, many continue to be plagued with depression, anxiety, and  
8 suicidal thoughts.<sup>12</sup>

9           168. Sexual and mental harassment and abuse of athletes results in long-term  
10 posttraumatic symptomology, with core symptoms including re-experiencing, avoidance, and  
11 hyperarousal symptoms.<sup>13</sup> Furthermore, recounting sexual abuse can lead to “double-trauma,”  
12 which can cause intense ruptures in day-to-day life.<sup>14</sup>

13           169. Psychological damage from sexual abuse is especially harmful when the  
14 perpetrator is known and trusted by the victim.<sup>15</sup>

15           170. In addition to psychological injury, Plaintiffs suffered out-of-pocket losses from  
16 the loss of scholarships, payments of costs-of-attendance, payments for medical and psychiatric  
17 treatment, damage to their careers as college baseball players directly affecting their prospects of  
18 becoming professional baseball players, and other compensatory and consequential damages.

19           **VI. TOLLING OF THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS**

20           171. John Does 15-19’s claims are timely. All Plaintiffs were members of the proposed  
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22 <sup>12</sup> Ingunn Bjørnseth & Attila Szabo, *Sexual Violence Against Children in Sports and Exercise: A*  
*Systematic Literature Review*, JOURNAL OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE, 27:4, 365-385, 365 (2018).

23 <sup>13</sup> Helen Owton & Andrew C. Sparkes, *Sexual Abuse and the Grooming Process in Sport:*  
*Learning from Bella’s Story*, SPORT EDUC. AND SOCIETY, at 5 (July 2015) (unpublished  
24 manuscript),  
[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/281771790\\_Sexual\\_abuse\\_and\\_the\\_grooming\\_process\\_](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/281771790_Sexual_abuse_and_the_grooming_process_in_sport_Learning_from_Bella's_story)  
25 [in\\_sport\\_Learning\\_from\\_Bella's\\_story](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/281771790_Sexual_abuse_and_the_grooming_process_in_sport_Learning_from_Bella's_story).

25 <sup>14</sup> See *id.*

26 <sup>15</sup> See Gloria Dura-Vila & Roland Littlewood, *Integration of Sexual Trauma in a Religious*  
*Narrative: Transformation, Resolution and Growth among Contemplative Nuns* 50 TRANSCULT  
27 PSYCHIATRY 21–46 (2013); Kimberly A. Lonsway & Sgt. Joann Archambault (Ret.), *Victim*  
*Impact: How Victims are Affected by Sexual Assault and How Law Enforcement Can Respond*  
28 33-37 (Apr. 2006, updated Nov. 2020) [https://evawintl.org/wp-content/uploads/Module-](https://evawintl.org/wp-content/uploads/Module-2_Victim-Impact.pdf)  
[2\\_Victim-Impact.pdf](https://evawintl.org/wp-content/uploads/Module-2_Victim-Impact.pdf) (last visited July 14, 2022).



1 class in *John Does 1-14 v. University of San Francisco, et al.*, Case No. 3:22-cv-1559-LB (N.D.  
2 Cal). That case involved the same Defendants, the same subject matter, and the same claims as  
3 the present case. Plaintiffs' statutes of limitations were tolled until class certification was denied in  
4 that case on March 5, 2025. ECF No. 312, Order Denying Mot. To Certify Issue Class, *John Does*  
5 *1-14 v. University of San Francisco, et al.*, Case No. 3:22-cv-1559-LB (N.D. Cal); *see American*  
6 *Pipe & Constr. Co. v. Utah*, 414 U.S. 538, 554 (1974) (tolling statute of limitations for class  
7 members' individual claims while class certification is pending); *Crown, Cork & Seal Co. v.*  
8 *Parker*, 462 U.S. 345, 353 (1983) (same, even if class is ultimately not certified).

9 **VII. CLAIMS FOR RELIEF**

10 **COUNT I**  
11 **VIOLATION OF TITLE IX [20 U.S.C. § 1681 *et seq.*] FOR DISCRIMINATION**  
12 **(ALL PLAINTIFFS AGAINST USF)**

13 172. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference paragraphs 1 through 171 as if set forth in full  
14 herein.

15 173. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 ("Title IX"), as amended, 20  
16 U.S.C. § 1681 *et seq.*, provides that "[n]o person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be  
17 excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under  
18 any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance." 20 U.S.C. § 1681(a).

19 174. Title IX bars gender-based discrimination and discrimination based on sexual  
20 orientation by federally funded educational institutions. Such discrimination includes sexual  
21 harassment.

22 175. USF receives federal funding, including, but not limited to, financial aid and  
23 grants, and grants from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (authorized by the  
24 American Rescue Plan (ARP), Public Law 117-2, signed into law on March 11, 2021).

25 176. At the time of the events alleged herein, each Plaintiff was enrolled as an  
26 undergraduate student at USF.

27 177. USF exercised substantial control over its baseball program, as well as over its  
28 coaching staff, including the Coach Defendants.

1           178. Plaintiffs suffered sexual harassment by Nakamura, facilitated and condoned by  
2 Giarratano, and/or by Giarratano that was so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive it  
3 deprived Plaintiffs access to the educational opportunities and benefits USF provides.

4           179. Specifically, the intolerable sexualized environment and psychological abuse that  
5 Plaintiffs were forced to endure since the beginning of their time at USF was continuous and  
6 unrelenting, thereby violating Title IX.

7           180. Giarratano oversaw, participated in, and approved of this culture of harassment  
8 and abuse in the baseball program, which was so extreme and outrageous that John Does 15-17  
9 and 19 had to leave USF at great personal and financial losses, including damage to each of their  
10 elite baseball careers.

11           181. Giarratano, as the head coach of the baseball program, had actual knowledge of the  
12 harassment and physical and mental abuse of Plaintiffs that was occurring by Nakamura, and  
13 indeed, condoned and participated in the conduct.

14           182. Numerous Athletic Directors and other administrators, in a position of oversight  
15 and control of USF's baseball program, including its coaching staff, had actual knowledge of the  
16 harassment that was occurring and the history of complaints of harassment on the baseball team  
17 and in the Athletic Department. *See* Section V.E, *supra*. This included when, in December 2020,  
18 John Doe 16 was forced to renounce his guaranteed scholarship by the Coach Defendants and, on  
19 that paperwork, noted that he was leaving USF against his will and was being forced to sign away  
20 his guaranteed four-year scholarship. Despite submitting this to USF's Athletic Department, no  
21 one from USF investigated this further or followed up with John Doe 16.

22           183. While USF fired Nakamura after an influx of complaints in 2021, Giarratano  
23 retained his position, allowing the pervasive sexual environment to continue. This was despite the  
24 fact that USF's Athletic Department had received complaints detailing Giarratano's involvement  
25 in the misconduct, including how, *inter alia*, Nakamura displayed and waved his genitalia in front  
26 of the entire team and in the presence of Giarratano, who said nothing, and also how Nakamura  
27 placed his face in another player's crotch, and Giarratano laughed and did not address the  
28

1 inappropriate behavior with the team. Another player reported that Giarratano took no action  
2 when the player was forced to get naked and use only a sock to cover his genitals. Another  
3 complaint even called USF out for turning a “blind eye” to the Coach Defendants’ abuse and  
4 misconduct. Yet still no action was taken to address Giarratano’s behavior.

5 184. USF’s failures allowed the severe and pervasive harassment to continue and  
6 ensured that Giarratano remained head coach until March 2022 despite his involvement in the  
7 misconduct.

8 185. USF’s actions constitute deliberate indifference to the harassment, and USF’s  
9 failure to respond to the complaints was clearly unreasonable in light of the circumstances.

10 186. USF’s actions constitute a policy of deliberate indifference that created an obvious  
11 risk of sexual harassment in a context (the baseball program) subject to USF’s control.

12 187. USF’s actions allowed the bullying, harassment, intimidation, and sexual  
13 misconduct to continue.

14 188. As a direct and proximate result of USF’s actions and inactions, Plaintiffs were  
15 damaged and continue to be damaged. Plaintiffs seek all available forms of damages and other  
16 monetary relief.

17 **COUNT II**  
18 **VIOLATION OF TITLE IX [20 U.S.C. § 1681 *et seq.*] FOR RETALIATION**  
19 **(ALL PLAINTIFFS AGAINST USF)**

20 189. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference paragraphs 1 through 171 as if set forth in full  
21 herein.

22 190. Retaliation against an individual for complaining of sex discrimination, including  
23 sexual harassment, constitutes prohibited sex discrimination under Title IX.

24 191. USF receives federal funding, including, but not limited to financial aid and grants,  
25 and grants from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (authorized by the American  
26 Rescue Plan (ARP), Public Law 117-2, signed into law on March 11, 2021).

27 192. At the time of the events alleged herein, each Plaintiff was enrolled as an  
28 undergraduate student at USF.

1           193. USF's administration, including numerous Athletic Directors, had actual  
2 knowledge of the sexual misconduct occurring in the USF baseball program over a two-decade  
3 period. *See* Section V.E, *supra*.

4           194. Giarratano, as the head coach of the baseball program, also had actual knowledge  
5 of the sexual misconduct that was occurring, and indeed, condoned and participated in the  
6 harassment. Giarratano participated in and was a witness to the abuse, including Nakamura's  
7 nudity.

8           195. As set out in Section V.D, *supra*, the Coach Defendants engaged in multiple types  
9 of retaliatory conduct against Plaintiffs for their refusal to participate in the sexualized  
10 environment, including running Plaintiffs off the team, blacklisting Plaintiffs through disparaging  
11 remarks to prospective or new coaches (thus ending or severely limiting the Plaintiffs' continued  
12 baseball careers), physically abusing them, and expressly or implicitly threatening them with  
13 harm.

14           196. The Coach Defendants engaged in such retaliation against Plaintiffs, who refused  
15 to condone or participate in their intolerable sexualized environment, including a relentless  
16 campaign to bully and demean each Plaintiff into leaving USF, resulting in severe depression and  
17 anxiety among all Plaintiffs, as well as damage to their baseball careers.

18           197. The examples in this Complaint are part of a concerted practice by USF  
19 administration—including the Coach Defendants—to isolate and bully Plaintiffs into  
20 relinquishing their scholarships and leaving USF, and to ruin their baseball careers.

21           198. Such retaliation caused all Plaintiffs to leave, want to leave, and/or feel they were  
22 forced to leave USF, at considerable personal and financial expense to each, including damage to  
23 their baseball careers.

24           199. As a direct and proximate result of USF's actions and inactions, Plaintiffs were  
25 damaged and continue to be damaged. Plaintiffs seek all available forms of damages and other  
26 monetary relief.

**COUNT III**  
**NEGLIGENT SUPERVISION AND RETENTION OF TROY NAKAMURA**  
**(PLAINTIFFS AGAINST USF AND GIARRATANO)**

200. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference paragraphs 1 through 171 as if set forth in full herein.

201. Since 2000, and until USF removed Nakamura in 2022, USF employed Nakamura and had the right to control him and the manner and methods in which he fulfilled his duties as a baseball coach.

202. During this same period, Giarratano had the right to control Nakamura and the manner and methods in which he fulfilled his duties as a baseball coach.

203. Nakamura was unfit or incompetent to work directly with student-athletes and posed a particular risk of sexually harassing and mentally abusing them.

204. USF and Giarratano knew or should have known that Nakamura was unfit or incompetent to work directly with student-athletes and posed a particular risk of sexually harassing or mentally abusing them, and that this unfitness created a particular risk to Plaintiffs.

205. Nakamura's unfitness and particular risk to student-athletes on USF's baseball team harmed Plaintiffs.

206. USF and Giarratano's negligence in supervising and/or retaining Nakamura were substantial factors in causing harm to Plaintiffs.

207. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' actions and inactions, Plaintiffs were damaged. Plaintiffs seek all available forms of damages and other monetary relief.

**COUNT IV**  
**NEGLIGENT SUPERVISION AND RETENTION OF NINO GIARRATANO**  
**(ALL PLAINTIFFS AGAINST USF)**

208. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference paragraphs 1 through 171 as if set forth in full herein.

209. Since 1999, and until USF fired Giarratano in 2022, USF employed Giarratano and had the right to control him and the manner and methods in which he fulfilled his duties as a baseball coach.

210. Giarratano was unfit or incompetent to work directly with student-athletes because

1 he sexually harassed and mentally abused them and/or allowed Nakamura to sexually harass and  
2 mentally abuse the student-athletes.

3 211. USF knew or should have known that Giarratano was unfit or incompetent to work  
4 directly with student-athletes because he was sexually harassing and mentally abusing them  
5 and/or allowing Nakamura to sexually harass and mentally abuse them, and that this unfitness  
6 created a particular risk to Plaintiffs.

7 212. USF knew or should have known that Giarratano was protecting Nakamura and  
8 facilitating Nakamura's sexual harassment and mental abuse of student-athletes, and that  
9 Nakamura's unfitness created a particular risk to Plaintiffs.

10 213. Giarratano's unfitness and particular risk to student-athletes on USF's baseball  
11 team harmed Plaintiffs.

12 214. USF's negligence in supervising and/or retaining Giarratano were substantial  
13 factors in causing harm to Plaintiffs.

14 215. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' actions and/or inactions, Plaintiffs  
15 were damaged and continue to be damaged. Plaintiffs seek all available forms of damages and  
16 other monetary relief.

17 **COUNT V**  
18 **DISCRIMINATION IN THE EDUCATIONAL SETTING**  
19 **[CAL. EDUC. CODE § 66270]**  
20 **(ALL PLAINTIFFS AGAINST USF AND THE COACH DEFENDANTS)**

21 216. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference paragraphs 1 through 171 as if set forth in full  
22 herein.

23 217. Section 66270 of the California Education Code provides in pertinent part: "No  
24 person shall be subjected to discrimination on the basis of disability, gender, gender identity,  
25 gender expression, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, [or] sexual orientation . . . in any  
26 program or activity conducted by any postsecondary educational institution that receives, or  
27 benefits from, state financial assistance or enrolls students who receive state student financial  
28 aid."

218. Upon information and belief, USF receives state financial assistance and enrolls

1 students who receive state student financial aid.

2 219. Plaintiffs were harmed by the psychological and physical abuse, as well as  
3 intolerable sexualized environment, that the Coach Defendants subjected them to while at USF  
4 because of Plaintiffs' gender, and Defendant USF and the Coach Defendants are responsible for  
5 that harm.

6 220. Plaintiffs suffered harassment that was so severe, pervasive, and offensive it  
7 effectively deprived Plaintiffs the right of equal access to educational benefits and opportunities.

8 221. Because of USF's and the Coach Defendants' conduct, Plaintiffs have been  
9 damaged and continue to be damaged in an amount to be proven at trial. Plaintiffs seek all  
10 available forms of damages and other monetary relief.

11 222. Further, USF and the Coach Defendants acted willfully and maliciously with the  
12 intent to harm Plaintiffs, and in conscious disregard of the rights of Plaintiffs, so as to constitute  
13 malice and oppression under California Civil Code Section 3294. Plaintiffs are therefore entitled  
14 to the recovery of punitive damages, in an amount to be determined at trial.

15  
16 **COUNT VI**  
17 **VIOLATION OF THE CALIFORNIA EQUITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION ACT**  
18 **[CAL. EDUC. CODE § 66250]**  
19 **(ALL PLAINTIFFS AGAINST USF)**

20 223. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference paragraph 1 through 171 as if set forth in full  
21 herein.

22 224. Section 66281.5 of the California Equity in Higher Education Act provides in  
23 pertinent part: "(a) It is the policy of the State of California, pursuant to Section 66251, that all  
24 persons, regardless of their sex, should enjoy freedom from discrimination of any kind in the  
25 postsecondary educational institution of the state. The purpose of this section is to provide  
26 notification of the prohibition against sexual harassment as a form of sexual discrimination and to  
27 provide notification of available remedies."

28 225. Section 66281.5 goes on to detail the affirmative steps that schools must take to  
provide notification of the prohibition against sexual harassment and the available remedies.

226. USF's conduct as alleged herein constitutes sexual harassment as a form of sexual discrimination against Plaintiffs and violated the Equity in Higher Education Act. Plaintiffs are entitled to enforce the Act through a civil action pursuant to Education Code Section 66292.4.

227. Plaintiffs were never advised of any USF policy governing or prohibiting sexual harassment or other sexualized misconduct by coaches; never saw any such policies displayed on campus; never received or were told about such policies at any orientation conducted for new students; and never received a publication that contained such policies.

228. Plaintiffs were never advised of any USF rules or procedures for reporting charges of sexual harassment or misconduct by coaches or for pursuing available remedies and resources, on or off campus; never saw any such rules or procedures displayed on campus; never received or were told about such rules or procedures at any orientation conducted for new students; and never received a publication that contained such rules or procedures.

229. Because of Defendants' conduct, Plaintiffs have been damaged and continue to be damaged in an amount to be proven at trial. Plaintiffs seek all available forms of damages and other monetary relief.

**COUNT VII**  
**GROSS NEGLIGENCE**  
**(ALL PLAINTIFFS AGAINST USF AND COACH DEFENDANTS)**

230. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference paragraphs 1 through 171 as if set forth in full herein.

231. USF and the Coach Defendants owed Plaintiffs a duty to use due care to ensure their safety and freedom from sexual harassment and abuse while interacting with their respective employees, representatives, and/or agents, including the Coach Defendants.

232. The Coach Defendants owed Plaintiffs a duty of due care in carrying out their coaching responsibilities as employees, agents, and/or representatives of USF.

233. The Plaintiffs' acceptance of USF's offers to join the baseball team and seek out coaching from the Coach Defendants in the course of their employment, agency, and/or representation of USF created a special, confidential, and fiduciary relationship between Plaintiffs



1 and the Coach Defendants, resulting in Coach Defendants owing Plaintiffs a duty to use due care.

2 234. USF's failure to adequately supervise the Coach Defendants, especially after USF  
3 knew or should have known of complaints regarding their sexual harassment and abuse while  
4 coaching was so reckless as to demonstrate a substantial lack of concern for whether Plaintiffs  
5 would be injured as a result.

6 235. The Coach Defendants' conduct in sexually harassing Plaintiffs in the course of  
7 their employment, agency, and/or representation of USF as baseball coaches was so reckless as to  
8 demonstrate a substantial lack of concern for whether Plaintiffs would be injured as a result.

9 236. USF's conduct as described above demonstrated a willful disregard for precautions  
10 to ensure Plaintiffs' safety, as well as a willful disregard for substantial risks to Plaintiffs.

11 237. USF breached duties owed to Plaintiffs and were grossly negligent when they  
12 conducted themselves as described above, said acts having been committed with reckless  
13 disregard for Plaintiffs' health, safety, constitutional and/or statutory rights, and with a substantial  
14 lack of concern as to whether Plaintiffs would be injured as a result.

15 238. USF is liable and vicariously liable for the Coach Defendants' conduct.

16 239. As a direct and/or proximate result of Defendants' actions and inactions, Plaintiffs  
17 were damaged and continue to be damaged. Plaintiffs seek all available forms of damages and  
18 other monetary relief.

19 **COUNT VIII**  
20 **NEGLIGENCE**

21 **(ALL PLAINTIFFS AGAINST USF AND COACH DEFENDANTS)**

22 240. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference paragraphs 1 through 171 as if set forth in full  
23 herein.

24 241. USF and the Coach Defendants owed Plaintiffs a duty to use due care to ensure  
25 their safety and freedom from sexual harassment and abuse while interacting with their respective  
26 employees, representatives, and/or agents, including the Coach Defendants.

27 242. The Coach Defendants owed Plaintiffs a duty of due care in carrying out their  
28 coaching responsibilities as employees, agents, and/or representatives of USF.

243. The Plaintiffs' acceptance of USF's offers to join the baseball team and seek out

1 coaching from the Coach Defendants in the course of their employment, agency, and/or  
2 representation of USF created a special, confidential, and fiduciary relationship between Plaintiffs  
3 and the Coach Defendants, resulting in Coach Defendants owing Plaintiffs a duty to use due care.

4 244. USF's negligence in supervising the Coach Defendants, especially after USF knew  
5 or should have known of complaints regarding their sexual harassment and abuse while coaching  
6 were substantial factors in causing harm to Plaintiffs.

7 245. The Coach Defendants' negligent conduct in sexually harassing Plaintiffs in the  
8 course of their employment, agency, and/or representation of USF as baseball coaches was so  
9 reckless as to demonstrate a substantial lack of concern for whether Plaintiffs would be injured as  
10 a result.

11 246. USF's conduct as described above demonstrated a negligent disregard for  
12 precautions to ensure Plaintiffs' safety, as well as a negligent disregard for substantial risks to  
13 Plaintiffs.

14 247. USF breached duties owed to Plaintiffs and were negligent when they conducted  
15 themselves as described above, said acts having been committed with disregard for Plaintiffs'  
16 health, safety, constitutional and/or statutory rights, and with a substantial lack of concern as to  
17 whether Plaintiffs would be injured as a result.

18 248. USF is liable and vicariously liable for the Coach Defendants' conduct.

19 249. As a direct and/or proximate result of Defendants' actions and inactions, Plaintiffs  
20 were damaged and continue to be damaged. Plaintiffs seek all available forms of damages and  
21 other monetary relief.

22 **COUNT IX**  
23 **NEGLIGENT FAILURE TO WARN, TRAIN, OR EDUCATE**  
**(ALL PLAINTIFFS AGAINST USF AND GIARRATANO)**

24 250. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference paragraphs 1 through 171 as if set forth in full  
25 herein.

26 251. USF owed Plaintiffs a duty to take reasonable protective measures to protect them  
27 and other student-athletes from the risk of sexual harassment and abuse by the Coach Defendants  
28

1 by properly warning, training, and educating Plaintiffs and others about how to avoid such a risk.

2 252. Giarratano owed Plaintiffs a duty to take reasonable protective measures to protect  
3 them and other student-athletes from the risk of sexual harassment and abuse by Nakamura by  
4 properly warning, training, and educating Plaintiffs and others about how to avoid such risk.

5 253. USF breached its duty to take reasonable protective measures to protect Plaintiffs  
6 and other student-athletes from the risk of sexual harassment and abuse by the Coach Defendants,  
7 such as the failure to properly warn, train, or educate Plaintiffs and other student-athletes about  
8 how to avoid the particular risk the Coach Defendants posed of sexual misconduct.

9 254. Giarratano breached his duty to take reasonable protective measures to protect  
10 Plaintiffs and other student-athletes from the risk of sexual harassment and abuse by Nakamura,  
11 such as the failure to properly warn, train, or educate Plaintiffs and other student athletes about  
12 how to avoid the particular risk Nakamura posed of sexual misconduct.

13 255. USF breached its duty to take reasonable protective measures to protect Plaintiffs  
14 and other student-athletes from the risk of sexual harassment and abuse by the Coach Defendants  
15 by failing to supervise and stop their employees, agents, and representatives, including the Coach  
16 Defendants, from committing wrongful harassment and abuse of student-athletes, including  
17 Plaintiffs.

18 256. Giarratano breached his duty to take reasonable protective measures to protect  
19 Plaintiffs and other student-athletes from the risk of sexual harassment and abuse by Nakamura  
20 by failing to supervise and stop Nakamura from committing wrongful harassment and abuse of  
21 student-athletes, including Plaintiffs.

22 257. As a direct and/or proximate result of USF's and Giarratano's actions and/or  
23 inactions, Plaintiffs were damaged and continue to be damaged. Plaintiffs seek all available forms  
24 of damages and other monetary relief.

25 **COUNT X**  
26 **INTENTIONAL INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS**  
27 **(ALL PLAINTIFFS AGAINST USF AND COACH DEFENDANTS)**

28 258. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference paragraphs 1 through 171 as if set forth in full

1 herein.

2 259. USF and the Coach Defendants' extreme and outrageous conduct intentionally or  
3 recklessly caused Plaintiffs to suffer severe emotional distress. This conduct was not the type of  
4 ordinary rude or obnoxious behavior student-athletes should be expected to weather—it exceeded  
5 all possible bounds of decency.

6 260. USF and the Coach Defendants acted with the intention of causing, or with  
7 reckless disregard for the probability of causing, Plaintiffs to endure extreme emotional distress.

8 261. Indeed, USF and the Coach Defendants used student-athletes' severe distress to  
9 subdue and threaten them; force them to leave USF, give up their scholarships, and enter the  
10 NCAA transfer portal; and to prevent them from complaining or suing over the Coach  
11 Defendants' misconduct. They did so with deliberate disregard as to the high possibility such  
12 actions would result in Plaintiffs experiencing additional severe emotional distress.

13 262. USF and the Coach Defendants' conduct intended to cause and caused Plaintiffs  
14 suffering exceeding all bound that are usually tolerated in a civilized community.

15 263. A causal nexus existed between (i) the Coach Defendants' recruitment and  
16 grooming of student-athletes, including Plaintiffs, to join USF and (ii) their abuse of power to  
17 coerce and harass those student-athletes.

18 264. Each act of harassment and abuse was foreseeable given, *inter alia*, the use of USF  
19 materials to lure victims and the commission of the acts on USF property.

20 265. The Coach Defendants' conduct is not so unusual or startling that it would seem  
21 unfair to include the loss resulting from it among other costs of USF's business. Assaults in the  
22 context of USF athletics by coaches and other athletics department personnel are exactly why  
23 student-athletes would expect USF to take extra precautions.

24 266. The Coach Defendants' conduct was committed within the scope of their positions  
25 as USF coaches. Holding USF liable furthers the policy goals of *respondeat superior*, including  
26 the prevention of future injuries and the assurance of compensation to victims, given that  
27 Plaintiffs do not have separate remedies under Title VII because they are not (currently)  
28

1 considered employees of USF.

2 267. As a direct and/or proximate result of Defendants' actions and/or inactions,  
3 Plaintiffs were damaged and continue to be damaged. Plaintiffs seek all available forms of  
4 damages and other monetary relief.

5 **COUNT XI**  
6 **NEGLIGENT INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS**  
7 **(ALL PLAINTIFFS AGAINST USF AND COACH DEFENDANTS)**

8 268. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference paragraphs 1 through 171 as if set forth in full  
9 herein.

10 269. USF and the Coach Defendants' conduct negligently caused emotional distress to  
11 Plaintiffs, and USF and the Coach Defendants could reasonably foresee that their actions would  
12 cause Plaintiffs to suffer emotional distress.

13 270. Plaintiffs were in a specific zone of danger by training with the Coach Defendants  
14 and at risk of physical harm, causing their fear.

15 271. Plaintiffs, immediately or shortly after training with the Coach Defendants,  
16 suffered distress and emotional harm.

17 272. A causal nexus existed between (i) the Coach Defendants' recruitment and  
18 grooming of student-athletes, including Plaintiffs, to join USF and (ii) their abuse of power to  
19 coerce and harass those student-athletes.

20 273. Each act of harassment and abuse was foreseeable given, *inter alia*, the use of USF  
21 materials to lure victims and the commission of the acts on USF property.

22 274. The Coach Defendants' conduct is not so unusual or startling that it would seem  
23 unfair to include the loss resulting from it among other costs of USF's business. Assaults in the  
24 context of USF athletics by coaches and other athletics department personnel are exactly why  
25 student-athletes would expect USF to take extra precautions.

26 275. The Coach Defendants' conduct was committed within the scope of their positions  
27 as USF coaches. Holding USF liable furthers the policy goals of *respondeat superior*, including  
28 the prevention of future injuries and the assurance of compensation to victims, given that

1 Plaintiffs do not have separate remedies under Title VII because they are not (currently)  
2 considered employees of USF.

3 276. As a direct and/or proximate result of Defendants' actions and/or inactions,  
4 Plaintiffs were damaged and continue to be damaged. Plaintiffs seek all available forms of  
5 damages and other monetary relief.

6 **COUNT XII**  
7 **RATIFICATION**  
8 **(ALL PLAINTIFFS AGAINST USF)**

9 277. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference paragraphs 1 through 171 as if set forth in full  
10 herein.

11 278. The Coach Defendants were USF coaches for several decades.

12 279. At the time of the acts alleged herein, there was an actual or assumed agency  
13 relationship between the Coach Defendants and USF.

14 280. All acts or omissions alleged herein were ratified by USF. USF had knowledge  
15 that the Coach Defendants were sexually abusing or harassing student-athletes but refused to take  
16 any action to the Coach Defendants or other predators like them. Moreover, USF hid this  
17 information from the public so that the Coach Defendants could continue to work for USF until at  
18 least 2022.

19 281. Despite USF, and/or its agents' knowledge of the Coach Defendants' sexual  
20 misconduct, the Coach Defendants were allowed to be alone with student-athletes while on USF  
21 business during the relevant time period.

22 **VIII. PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

23 WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs respectfully request that the Court enter a judgment on their  
24 behalf and against the University of San Francisco, Nino Giarratano, and Troy Nakamura, and  
25 further grant the following relief:

26 A. Award Plaintiffs compensatory damages, punitive damages, damages for pain and  
27 suffering and emotional distress, and any other relief to which they are entitled under the law;

28 B. Award Plaintiffs pre-judgment interest, post-judgment interest, costs, attorneys'

1 fees, expert fees; and

2 C. Award Plaintiffs such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

3 **IX. DEMAND FOR TRIAL BY JURY**

4 Plaintiffs respectfully request a trial by jury as to all matters so triable.

5  
6  
7 Dated: June 25, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

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